



Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2013

Porthcawl pulls together for Beth **Page 3**

Barry Christmas Experience
Pages 17-21

Christmas at Cowbridge
Pages 24-27

Making your house a home
Page 28

Bridgend remembers...



LEFT: This veteran (photographed by Randell John) joined the rest of the county borough, and the country, on Remembrance Sunday to remember those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom. See more Remembrance Day pictures from across the county borough on pages 4, 5 and 6.

Remembrance Day pictures from across the county borough on pages 4, 5 and 6.

Ogmore Vale burglary

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information following a burglary at a terraced house on Ogmore Vale High Street, which happened sometime between 9am and 7.30pm on Monday November 11.

Access was gained to the property via a rear lane and through the garden. The culprit(s) then forced entry through a rear patio door.

Among the property stolen were a

gold necklace and a pair of gold earrings. They are described as large and triangular, and the necklace was the same shape as the earrings. In addition, a large amount of cash was also taken.

Detectives are appealing for any witnesses who may have seen anything suspicious or who may have any information which may assist the police to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130356492.

LOCAL PUPILS GET TO SING AT THE MOTORPOINT ARENA!



Children from St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary Catholic School in rehearsal ahead of the big performance.

PUPILS from St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary Catholic School, Newton Primary and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw sang at the Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff, when they took part in the annual '1000 Voice Youth Choir', a special musical event that invites young people from across south Wales to perform as one act.

Organised by Hybu Ltd, a non-profit organisation which aims to encourage members of the community to value themselves and support each other, the event saw the youth choir accompanied by an orchestra from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "What an exciting opportunity for the pupils to

perform at a venue that has hosted an array of stars.

"All proceeds from this event went to Children in Need, so not only did the pupils enjoy an unforgettable evening, but they helped disadvantaged children too."

Jackie Phillips, head of St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary Catholic School said: "We were very pleased and excited to take part in our second year with the 1,000 voice choir."

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ABM health board employees help the victims of typhoon

AT the first ABM Health Board awards ceremony, staff and guests generously gave over £1,000 to help those affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

ABM employs over 50 nurses from the Philippines and although the aim of the event was to celebrate excellent and innovative work, staff wanted to use the opportunity to help those whose lives have been devastated by the Typhoon.

Lesley Bevan, ABM assistant director of nursing, said: "We really wanted to do something to help the people of the Philippines, especially as the health board has a connection with the country through our staff."

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of staff and guests who dug deep into their pockets, raising £1,000. This has since been added to by others who were unable to attend the awards."

"Thank you very much to everyone who has made a donation. The money will be passed on directly to the Disasters Emergency Committee Typhoon Haiyan Appeal."

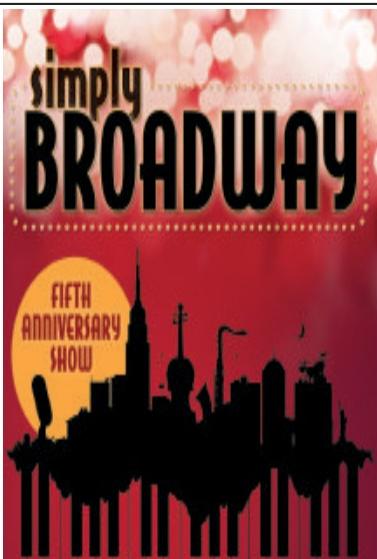


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Wartime memories highlight how the world has changed

I HAVE to write a letter to the future, to be buried in a time capsule at Bridgend Recreation Centre, along with other letters and artefacts to be sealed away until the end of the century.

Thinking about the letter and what I will write sits nagging at the back of my brain. I am to describe Bridgend now and detail how I imagine life in the future constituency to be.

This all seems apt during this period of Remembrance Sunday and the centenary of the start of World War One.

There are no veterans of World War One still alive. We have moved on to generations with no memories of those times. Last week, the Commons debated next year's commemoration of the start of what became known as the Great War.

I spoke about my grandfather. He kept a two inch pocket diary and wrote in pencil of his experiences. He could not know the major changes the war would bring.

He travelled to the front by train. A first: armies had always marched to the front. He saw aeroplanes used for the first time for what we now call ISR; Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance.

He recorded gas attacks and the victims brought into the medical stations. There is a sad account of a boy brought in for desertion, probably an early case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The days are full of rain, snow, heavy firing, constant noise, dirt, trains full of wounded, civilian refugees and movement, constant movement.

He also recorded Indian troops going to the front, Gurkhas, Sikhs and Punjabs. These were British Empire troops; today we would call them

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP
MADELEINE MOON
is writing an exclusive
monthly report from
Westminster
for The GEM.**



coalition forces.

I have thought a lot about my grandfather's world – the horrors he lived through, but also how much that war was on the cusp of a new way of life: cars were a novelty; telephones for the very rich; most of the men at the front did not have the

Disenfranchised women were employed for the first time in war jobs from munitions to nursing; many served on the front line in dressing stations. Mental health services expanded to address the shell-shocked men whose minds could not cope with the horrors they had seen.

My grandfather died in 1917 on day two of the Third Battle of Ypres. If he had been asked to write a letter to the future would he have imagined women having the vote or his granddaughter becoming an MP?

Women as nurses he could see but women as doctors, scientists or astronauts would have seemed impossible. He knew about planes and telephones but the explosion of foreign travel and global business, mobile phones with 'apps' and cameras, were beyond anyone's imagination.

Now, with the almost the same gap, I must try and describe life in this constituency now and in the future. New technology was changing my grandfather's world but not at the pace the internet is changing ours.

It is easy to think of chips in clothing that will tell us when they need washing and change texture to keep us warmer if the temperature drops. Fridges will tell us what shopping is needed.

Chips implanted in our bodies will give warning to patients or doctors if medication is needed or if a heart attack is pending.

I'm even told shoes will warn us we have not walked enough to ensure the minimum exercise has been taken to offset the food intake. I'm told these will all be available within 10 years. So in 90 years what will life be like?

There are arguments that the use of computers is

Council workers' prompt response to gale damage

AS high winds battered Bridgend County Borough on Saturday, November 2, council staff worked hard to clear fallen trees and debris to ensure that local roads were safe.

Control Your Heat: Installing a room thermostat can help save you £70 a year and turning it down by just one degree and wearing an extra layer to keep you warm will save around £65. Another tip is to only heat the areas of your home that you use the most.

Lighten Your Load: You can now get LED spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogen, as well as regular energy saving bulbs (compact fluorescent lamps or CFLs) for pretty much everything else.

Careful in the Kitchen: By using appliances differently, you can save up to £55 a year. Simple actions such as setting your washing machine to 30°C, using a washing up bowl rather than letting your hot tap run and avoiding overfilling your kettle can bring you big savings.

Look for the Energy Saving Trust Recommended logo to be assured of light quality and lifetime. If the average household replaced all their old fashioned and halogen lights with CFLs and LEDs it would cost £125 and save £60 a year.

borough and these were cleared.

Tiles were cleared after coming down off an old church/chapel building at High Street in Laleston.

Cables were down at Abergavenny Road in Brynmennin, and Bethania Street in Maesteg, and council staff assisted Western Power Distribution by closing roads to enable them to be repaired.

Coun Phil White, Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet member for communities, said: "I would like to commend council workers for their response to the high winds that caused much disruption last weekend. The tree that fell on Park Street was extremely large and it was very fortunate that there weren't any pedestrians or drivers who were seriously injured."

A further tree collapsed at Moor Lane, Porthcawl, which was cleared away in the evening. There were a number of areas where branches came down throughout the county

changing our brains. Information on computers is said to be accessible by numerous security services around the world. What will be the implications for health, relationships, privacy, security, business, crime, warfare as we move deeper into the age of the internet?

I do know I plan to write my letter to the future on good old paper with a fountain pen. No hacktivist will be able to download this future letter. If you want to save space in my letter, write to me using pen and paper and briefly outline your view of life now and in 90 plus years and let's see if we have the same vision.

As for Remembrance, it is now the task of our generation to pass on to the younger generation the responsibility for honouring the dead of a time that seems so far removed from their understanding.

I will have been to the Bridgend remembrance Service to lay my wreath. In Kenfig Hill, Jasmine King and Alex Osborne will have laid my wreath. Both are hard working pupils who help build the confidence of primary school pupils as they approach the major transition to the comprehensive. Jasmine helps other pupils experience sport and Alex is an Air Cadet.

In Porthcawl, Ieuan Walsley-Williams and Lucie Bentley, both members of the school council, will lay my wreath. Both are eager to take part in any activities that promote the school and assist fellow pupils.

These bright, helpful, clever young people are our future and remembrance will also be their task. They may well be alive in 90 years time, a thought which I am sure will horrify them.

It is estimated that in the UK, over a million people will live to be over 100 by the end of this century. I now have to sit down and imagine their future world and I know they will probably howl with laughter at my imaginings.

Claire and Val's charity work

PRESIDENT Margaret Batten welcomed Claire Davies and Val Weaver as speakers for the November meeting of the Merthyr Mawr WI.

Claire and Val are great supporters of Macmillan Cancer Care and they undertake extreme challenges to raise money for the charity.

Over the years, they have trekked in the Andes, scaled Mount Kilimanjaro, hiked along the Great Wall of China to mention a few.

This time, their talk was entitled 'Frozen Plains to Dizzy Heights'. Using beautiful photographs, they first transported us to the Arctic.

This expedition was extremely challenging. They moved around a very desolate empty landscape dragged by huskies.

There, in very low temperatures, they built their own shelters, which meant first digging down to the permafrost before they could start building and also digging an ice hole to sleep in.

They then talked about their trek in the foothills of the Himalayas.

This challenge was not as testing as the one in Arctic, but there were still some scary moments when they were crossing fast flowing rivers on what

looked very flimsy rope bridges.

After the barren landscape of the Arctic, the scenery of the mountains was magnificent and they made contact with many of the local people.

To date, Claire and Val have raised over £120,000 for Macmillan and all the money they raise is spent on local projects.

Among other projects, they have helped fund an information and support officer based on the concourse of Cardiff University Hospital, to support patients and their families.

In the business part of the meeting, Sheila Watts Jones reported back from the half yearly council meeting.

There were 499 members present representing 79 WIs.

The morning speaker spoke about the history of contraception and he delivered an interesting and amusing talk.

The speaker in the afternoon, Wynne Evans, is an international opera tenor. He talked about life with the Welsh National Opera Company, life at Covent Garden and his work on television.

It was an amusing talk and he finished by singing an aria which gained him a standing ovation.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4 at Ewenny Community Hall.

Heron Lodge's official opening

ON Friday, October 25, Heron Lodge, an eco-cabin in the grounds of Heronsbridge School, Bridgend, had its official opening.

people and large companies.

The Friends of Heronsbridge are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported the various fund-raising events or has given donations. Heron Lodge is already in use by the school, as an 'outdoor classroom', giving an opportunity to observe wildlife, to learn about the environment and ecological issues, as well as being a venue for school social events.

Heron Lodge was funded by The Friends of Heronsbridge, a voluntary organisation and a registered charity which raises money to benefit the pupils of Heronsbridge School. The £85,000 required was raised by holding a wide variety of fund-raising events over several years, and from donations by generous individuals, groups of

Charity events

THE Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Standing Committee, and the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Coun Clive James, are holding a coffee morning at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Friday, November 15, 10am to 1pm, tickets £5.

There will be a charity Christmas book fair in the reception/foyer of Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices, Angel Street,

Bridgend on Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 4pm, November 20–21.

Also Garw Valley Community Councillor George Davies and friends are holding a fun evening at the Ogmore Junction, Blackmill, including a basket meal and local entertainment on Monday, November 18, 7.30pm (£7) in aid of the Glaucoma Department at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

For further information contact: M Major, MBE - 01656 664105; Coun M Thomas 01656 871439 or Coun G Davies on 01656 870536.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	03.34	8.7	15.55	9.1
15 Fri	04.24	9.1	16.46	9.4
16 Sat	05.08	9.5	17.30	9.6
17 Sun	05.51	9.6	18.10	9.7
18 Mon	06.27	9.8	18.49	9.6
19 Tues	07.06	9.8	19.24	9.6
20 Wed	07.39	9.5	19.59	9.4
21 Thur	08.11	9.3	20.35	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Porthcawl will carry on the fight for Beth

OVER the past two months, The GEM has been reporting on the case of Beth Margetson of Porthcawl, who is campaigning to be given the cancer drug afinitor.

The drug is available in England but not in Wales, and Beth (46) recently lost her appeal to the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, which had originally refused to precribe it.

At the moment, Beth is having to pay the monthly costs of a course of afinitor – £3,100 – herself.

She has been helped by a fundraising campaign run by friends in Porthcawl, and by students in Bridgend College, where she teaches.

Heavily involved in publicising Beth's plight has been Porthcawl journalist, Caroline Sarll.

In this personal piece, she reflects on the campaign, and on what lessons can be learned from Beth's case.

She also, on Beth's behalf, wants to pass on Beth's thanks to the many supporters who have come forward to help.

In the midst of my annual pre-Christmas clear-out, it was gratifying to come across a battered old A-Level copy of Alexander Pope's poetry. I reacquainted myself with the wonders of Pope's wit and his QED.

Guild's Fayre

P O R T H C A W L
Townswomen's
Guild are holding a
Christmas fayre on
Wednesday, November 20, at
The Atlantic Hotel
beginning at 10am.

Tickets are £2 on the door. Many stalls; Christmas, parcels, jewellery, cakes, cards, tombola and great raffles!

DOROTHY THOMAS



BY CAROLINE SARLL

well-wrought word-smithery. On re-reading one of my favourite quotes – “Do good by stealth and blush to find it fame” – my thoughts turned, as they have daily over the last month or so, to courageous Beth Margetson.

Beth, as regular readers (and, surely, most of Porthcawl) will now know, is at the centre of a battle to obtain a life-extending drug which will help her to overcome metastatic breast cancer.

Beth, for reasons not yet fully explained, has been refused the drug, afinitor, by the Local Health Board, ABMU.

Just two weeks ago, after attending a gruelling and humiliating appeal, the board upheld their original decision and Beth is left to pay the £3,100, every month, for the foreseeable future.

The board has stated that it is unable to define the “exceptionality” they claim that Beth does not meet. In England, the same panel has a seven-point criteria list and,

says Beth: “I meet every single one of those criteria.”

In a cruel twist, the ABMU has said that if Beth can prove the drug is working, they will be able to reconsider her case, an irony that is so unpalatable, it beggars belief. Were Beth not currently paying for the drug they have refused her, she would not be able to prove its efficacy. QED.

Thankfully, Beth's latest tests indicate that the drug is working for her – but for Beth, struggling to keep herself and her small family unit going (Beth is mum to Ffion, aged 15, currently doing GCSEs and, as well as husband, Chris, looks after her elderly father, who has Parkinson's), the battle to obtain afinitor on the NHS must continue.

She has been deeply touched by it and it has encouraged her enormously to continue with the fight. Well done, Porthcawl – and well done, Beth. We know how draining this is for you. We are behind you all the way.

CHOIR TO SING IN PORTHCAWL

THE next concert by Cor Bro Ogwr, in All Saints Church, Porthcawl, on November 30 at 7.30pm, aims to fill the audience with the Christmas spirit.

The choir will perform Saint Saens' Christmas Oratorio, Mozart's 'Coronation Mass' and a variety of hymns and carols.

Also performing will be soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the British Sinfonietta

fundraising activities, the like of which I have not witnessed in my many years here as a resident.

Beth's plight has touched every single one of us. Not only nature of the Health Board's refusal (if Beth lived across the Bridge she would be getting the drug), but also the universality of Beth's situation: we all know that it could be any one of us in her position.

And so we have all armed ourselves in Beth's ongoing battle, driven by the will to help, but also by the will to change and overturn this shocking injustice.

Quizzes have been organised, walks (in windy and inclement weather) have been undertaken, cakes baked and coffees served at countless fundraising gatherings and unique afinitor charity bands manufactured and sold.

A protest march on the Senedd witnessed an amazing turn out. In this paradoxically commercial (why Christmas adverts in November?) and yet also belt-tightening world in which we live, it has been heartening to see how many individuals and businesses have given so much of their time, so willingly and, here comes the Pope link, anonymously.

Beth, who has inspired us with her guts, drive and determination to change this inequity, would like to thank every single one of you for your tireless support.

The fight continues. By doing “good by stealth” and by following Beth's inspirational lead, we will get this decision overturned.

We are a powerful lot, we Porthcawlians – and we don't take injustice lying down.”

Bridgend company's boost for Mind Cymru

A BRIDGEND construction firm has raised nearly £2,000, after competing in a triathlon for leading mental health charity, Mind Cymru.

Almost 40 individuals from the Jehu Group, including its Waterstone Homes arm, took part in the course, which involved a 750m swim, a 20K bike ride and a 5K run.

They began the intensive route at Halo Leisure's Nyssawdre Pool and Fitness Centre, and went as far as Ogmore Valley Life Centre, before racing each other back. Of the 38 participants, 14 completed the gruelling challenge by themselves, with the rest divided into six teams.

The money raised will support Mind Cymru in its efforts to support and empower those experiencing mental health problems.

Andrea Gardner, sales manager at Waterstone Homes, said: “We're delighted to have raised such a significant sum for Mind Cymru. As a forward-thinking firm we take a very responsible approach to our employees and we are keen to share the message that mental health



Simon Jehu and Andrea Gardner on bikes with Simon Street of Jehu (front right) and Gareth Jones (front left).

issues are nothing to be ashamed of.

“The encouragement and passion that comes from our personnel manager Claire Thomas has been key to embedding a positive, inclusive culture throughout the organisation, and this is why we have chosen Mind Cymru as our charity partner.”

Ruth Coombs of Mind Cymru added: “We're thrilled that large organisations, such as the Jehu Group, continue to support our charity to help us reach our goals.”

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

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Stephen Webber will be in your local area to talk about:

- **Medical negligence** claims including missed fractures, birth injuries, cerebral palsy, mis-diagnosis and surgical complications.
- **Work place injuries** including factory, construction, agricultural, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Stephen will be at Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB on the date listed below.

Wed 20 Nov 10am - 5.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Stephen Webber

T: 0800 0938240

E: stephen.webber@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend



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Porthcawl remembers the Fallen – on a bright clear morning at All Saints Church

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT**

THE recent bad weather stayed well away on Remembrance Day in Porthcawl.

Following a long-established format, local people wishing to pay their respects attended a service in All Saints Church in Victoria Avenue.

After the service, standard bearers led the way to the Cenotaph in the church grounds, where wreaths were laid, and the two-minute silence observed.

That silence was broken by the poignant sounding of 'The Last Post'.

As usual, there was a strong turnout from local organisations, with a number of young people's groups also attending.



ABOVE: Mr John David with the chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion, Ruth Birch.

ALL GENERATIONS OF PENCOED ARE UNITED IN HONOURING 'THE FALLEN'

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
*(Available for purchase,
telephone 07734 384536)*

*These and other pictures of the
event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk*

IN bright sunshine, the people of Pencoed marked Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph, honouring those who sacrificed their lives in the defence of this country and to protect our freedoms.

Photographer Mandy Thomas's images demonstrate that younger people are just as keen as their elders to pay their respects.



BRIDGEND PAYS ITS TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
01656 662324**

ON a crisp Remembrance Sunday in Bridgend, representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces joined civic dignitaries and local organisations in paying tribute to those who gave their lives in defence of this country and its freedoms.

As you can see from Randell John's photographs of the day, even the very young understand the debt we owe past generations.





Pencoed Special School
are pictured with the
Kendrick Griffiths Shield.

Pencoed Special School wins 'Kendrick Griffiths Shield'

THE former Chief Constable of Merthyr Tydfil, event and presented the trophy to the winning team from Pencoed Kendrick Griffiths, was remembered on October 23, Special School. when special schools in the area competed at Seven Oaks for his commemorative shield.

Bridgend Rotary Club president Allan Brookes attended the

This annual event was again organised by Rotarian Edgar Burt and is a fishing competition.

ROY HODGKINSON

KIDS STEP OUT ON A SCARY STROLL AROUND MAESTEG

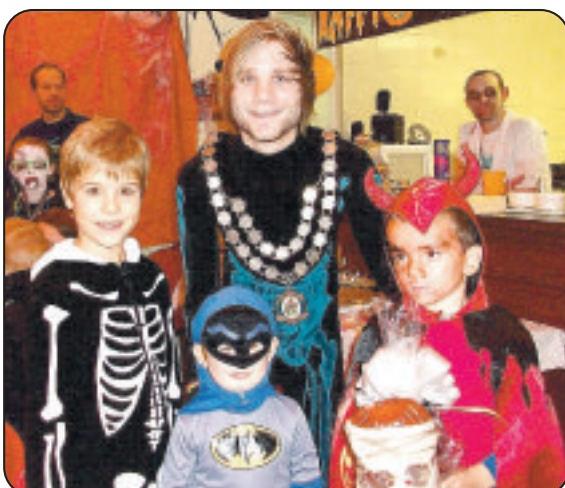
THE Mayor of Maesteg's charity fund benefited when a great crowd turned out for a Hallowe'en night special event, hosted by the Mayor, Coun Ross Thomas, and the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park.

The evening began in the pavilion with the children tucking into plates of party food while the 'Man in Black' told Hallowe'en stories.

This was followed by a fancy dress competition which was won by Eva, the little black cat, with the 'red devil' and Batman second and third. It proved very difficult to pick the winners, as all the children wore fantastic costumes.

Then came the highlight of the evening – a spooky walk around the park by torchlight. This was most eventful, and featured a werewolf, howling and growling up in a tree, ghouls, ghosts, a nasty troll under the bridge and two very scary 'brides'.

The evening ended with a barbecue and raffle.



LEFT:
Fancy dress
contestants are
pictured with the
Mayor of Maesteg,
Coun Ross
Thomas.

Say hello to Staffie Nancy

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre 01656 725219

NANCY is a three-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier and is a busy girl who likes to live life to the full.

She is good with other dogs, and loves a good game of rough and tumble in the field. She knows her basic commands, and responds well to training.

Nancy will be a delight in an active home which is up for fun, and will help her with her training. She would be best suited to older children, as she can be boisterous when playing, and she is housetrained.

If you can offer this sweet Staffie a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend. You can also see Nancy and some of her friends on our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk

LINDA FEAGAN



The Brides of Dracula.

MUCH-TRAVELED JOURNALIST'S TALK ON WORLD AFFAIRS

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Bridgend and their guests gathered recently at the Heronston Hotel for the annual event hosted by the foundation committee of the club.

As usual, the guest speaker was an ambassadorial scholar, either studying in Wales from a foreign country or an outbound scholar from Wales who had been studying overseas.

On this occasion, the club was delighted to receive Tomos Lewis from Dinas Powys who in 2011-2012 studied for his MSc degree in Columbia University, New York, in broadcast journalism.

In an excellent address, following a most enjoyable meal, he gave a well-crafted account of his time there, and the months he spent looking in detail at the Harlem district and its inhabitants. He was fortunate enough to remain in America and assist the BBC in its coverage of the 2012 Presidential election.

During the question and answer session following his address, he answered all questions



Tomos Lewis with Allan Brookes

put to him with a depth of knowledge covering current world problem areas; the place in history he thought the presidents of Kennedy and Obama would have over the passage of time and his future aspirations.

All present were delighted with the presentation and wished Tomos every success in his endeavours. He is currently working in London for an independent media company. He has spent time living and working in Beirut, Kuwait and has studied for a short while in St Petersburg, Russia.

Before going to America on an ambassadorial scholarship sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys, he worked as a broadcast assistant at the BBC for BBC news in Cardiff, working primarily on Welsh language news programmes on TV and the radio.

President Allan Brookes thanked everyone for attending, the committee for arranging the successful event and the speaker, Tomos, for travelling from London and for his polished contribution, making the evening so memorable.

C Huw Thomas, chairman of Bridgend International Committee

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Pontllaw areas and Phil is finding that his

door work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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'MAGICAL WEEKEND' AS GALILEE CHAPEL OPENS

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT.



by PHILIP IRWIN

THE recent celebration of thanksgiving and re-dedication for the Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major was hailed as a "magical weekend" by organisers.

Hundreds of residents turned out for the occasion, with the St Athan Voluntary Band joining in the brief service led by Rev Huw Butler.

A rededication service was held on Sunday in the presence of the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, with the sermon given by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam.

On both Saturday and Sunday, there were musical performances in St Illtud's Church, and the co-ordinator of these, Lynn Brown, said that it had been a "magical weekend".

The Galilee Chapel was rebuilt in a project that stems back 50 years. The Rev Huw Butler explained in his programme notes that, in 1963, the then Vicar of Llantwit Major, Canon Dilwyn Llewellyn-Jones presented a vision for the future of the 13th Century chapel, which had been a ruin for four centuries.

He said: "This new vision for the chapel is that it will offer a place of welcome to visitors in relating the story of our amazing heritage."

"Illtud's great Christian community, established around 500AD, has been described as a 'cradle' of Celtic Christianity in Britain."

"The early Celtic medieval inscribed stones speak of saints and kings educated at Llanilltud Fawr and are witness to the unbroken continuity of prayer and worship on this holy site for over 1,500 years."

The Galilee Chapel is now home to those stones, and an impressive sight they make. It is intended that the chapel should become an education centre.

Vale MP Alun Cairns was an impressed visitor. He told The GEM: "It was a wonderful



The Celtic stones in their new home.



ABOVE: Mrs Gladys Kilby cuts the ribbon.



ABOVE: The restored chapel.

Hospital Hallowe'en



Radio volunteers at the Princess of Wales Hospital got in the Hallowe'en spirit recently as they broadcast in costume.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Parade to celebrate Bridgend's new library opening

LOCAL book-worms have been preparing to celebrate the opening of the all-new Bridgend Library at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Adults and children were invited to create masks of their favourite fictional characters in a series of art workshops at the library's previous premises on Wyndham Street in Bridgend town centre, co-ordinated by Bridgend County Borough Council's Arts and Community Development team.

Now residents are being invited to get into the party spirit for a special parade at 2pm on Wednesday, November 20, which will snake its way from the Wyndham Street building over to the library's new home at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Revellers joining the parade are being encouraged to don their masks and get into fancy dress, and the person with the best costume will receive a pair of tickets to see 'Silly Kings' at Cardiff Castle this Christmas.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "A lot of planning and hard



Children show off the masks they have made for the special parade

work is going to come to fruition when the new library opens in just a few days' time.

"This is an exciting time for Bridgend county borough book lovers, and the parade is a great opportunity for them to join in with the celebrations and discover all the fantastic new features that the library has to offer."

The all-new Bridgend Library will be opening its doors

today, 9am (Thursday) when eager readers will be able to peruse thousands of brand new books and discover the library's range of computers and 'tablets'.

For more information about the library parade, or to find out more about the all-new Bridgend Library, contact Bridgend Library and Information Service on 01656 754800, or email bli@bridgend.gov.uk.

Who wants to build what and where?

- Mrs J Phillips – St Marys and St Patricks School, Monica Street, Maesteg – Erection of eco green flag.
- Abercardin Primary School – Kenry Street, Evanston – Black and gold metal hoarding sign and eco schools flag.
- Natural Resources Wales – Coedpentwyn, Pentwyn Farm, Coytrahen – Thinning of sycamore, beech and other mixed broadleaf trees ((1994) OBC No.02).
- BCBC Parks Department – 54 Cefn Glas Road, Cefn Glas – Fell ash tree and remove dead limb of additional tree.
- Mrs N Richards – Land at Bangor Terrace, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg – Two three-bed semi-detached houses with parking, amenity space and local highway improvement.
- J& SM Properties – Land off Pantyrawel Road, Pantyrawel – Six dwellings, access and car parking (outline application).
- Mr and Mrs Williams – 1 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl – Change of use from an open grass area to an enclosed garden area.
- Waterstone Homes Limited – 270/270A New Road, Porthcawl – Application for approval of landscaping reserved matter as part of approval P/1/2878/OUT.
- Mr M John – 2 South Place, Bridgend – Roof extensions to rear.
- Mr S Pictor – 216 New Road, Porthcawl – Remove existing side extension and construct larger single storey extension to side.
- Mr Richard Groves – Land at Mountain View Farm, Heol y Cyw – Storage barn to accommodate farm vehicles and hay storage.
- Coytrahen Community Centre – Oak Terrace, Coytrahen – Steel storage container.
- Jack (Pencoed) SARL – Unit 2, Pencoed Technology Park, Pencoed – Remove three loading bay doors and adjacent cladding and replace with new windows/curtain walling.
- Mr Keith George – 13 The Retreat, Merthyr Mawr Road – Single storey front and side facing extension.
- Mr Stephen O'Neill – 37 Tymeinwr Avenue, Blaengarw – Construct new kitchen internal alterations, new WC and utility room.
- Mr A Olding – The Shieling, Carlton Place, Porthcawl – Demolish garage and construct two storey extension, bay window and attic conversion.
- J& SM Properties – Land off Pantyrawel Road, Pantyrawel – Six dwellings, access and car parking (outline application).
- Mr and Mrs Williams – 1 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl – Change of use from an open grass area to an enclosed garden area.
- Waterstone Homes Limited – 270/270A New Road, Porthcawl – Application for approval of landscaping reserved matter as part of approval P/1/2878/OUT.
- Mr M John – 2 South Place, Bridgend – Roof extensions to rear.
- Tabernacle Church – Church Hall, Derwen Road, Bridgend – Replace steps with disabled access ramp from Elder Lane to church hall.
- Mrs S L Thomas – 34 Cae Canol, Porthcawl – First floor extension.
- Mrs K Bateman – 19 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl – Demolish existing WC extension and rebuild bathroom in single storey extension for disabled person.

The sombre month of November...

AUTUMNAL November is the eleventh month on the Roman and Gregorian calendars. It derives its name from the Latin word 'novem' which means nine, as it was the ninth month on the Roman datebook.

The Welsh people know it as Tachwedd, and the Anglo-Saxons 'Wind Monath' as it was the time of year when the cold wind began to blow.

They also named it 'blood monarch' as they slaughtered cattle for winter food and they would be smeared with the animals' blood.

The birthstone for November is Topaz and its flower the chrysanthemum.

The poet TS Eliot (1888 – 1965) called it Sombre November with the quote:

"Since golden October declined into sombre November, the apples were gathered and stored, and the land became brown sharp points of death in a waste of water and mud."

The first day of the month is known as All Saints Day, but in more ancient times All Hallows Day, as it followed Halloween.

Celtic tribes labelled it La Samhna or November Day, as it was their New Year.

Customs were carried out including the making of bara brith (fruit cake), cawl cennin (leek stew), and laverbread.

November 2 was Hallowtide and was dedicated to praying for the dead.

Hallow is an old word for Saint or Holy person, and this day was a celebration with festivals remembering their dearly departed by visiting graves, cooking soul

cakes (a modern hot cross bun minus currants), and visiting neighbours' houses singing songs accompanied by hobby horses in the belief that spirits paid visits to their old homes.

Candles would also be lit and the departed's favourite meals cooked to guide them to their destinations.

The evening of November 4 was traditionally called 'Mischief Night' during ancient times. Naughty actions were performed such as putting everyday items like pots and pans in the wrong room to confuse other members of the household.

Traditionally on November 5 bonfires would be lit in celebration of the capture of Guy Fawkes who was arrested beneath the Houses of Parliament as his plot to blow up King James I was uncovered in 1605.

Today, we traditionally celebrate the occasion by the lighting of bonfires and firework displays.

November 11 was Martinmas Day before World War I. Beef was customarily eaten on this date together with cake and ale for the workers.

In 1918, the name was changed to Armistice Day to honour the fallen from the perils of battle.

November 22 was known as St Cecilia's Day. She was believed to have been a Roman maiden who was martyred in the second or third century.

She was given the status of the Patron Saint of Music as she played the organ.

Her story is portrayed in 'Second Nun's Tale' in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

November 23 was Old Clem's Day which was an honourable time to celebrate St Clement, the patron saint of

blacksmiths. The last Sunday of November was known as Stir-up Day where the Christmas pudding was made.

All members of the household made a wish as it was almost the beginning of advent and arrangements for the festival of Christmas were pondered.

As duck was cooked an old saying was recited: 'Frost in November to hold a duck, the rest of the winter is slush and muck.'

Other historic occasions which happened throughout November include the birth of astronomer Edmond Halley (8th, 1656) who discovered the comet which was named after him; Dylan Thomas the flamboyant Welsh bard died at the age of 39 on the 9th, 1953; highwayman Jack Sheppard was hanged in London on the 16th, 1724; and archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun on November 26, 1922.

With the return of darkness following the summer months, ghostly tales are still rife around November, and Moor lane in Porthcawl is no exception.

This creepy lane is known for its eerie stories, and has its own tales of ghosts who enjoy making their presence known around this time.

The mysterious sound of church bells has been heard ringing out into the darkness from an invisible place of worship, sending shivers down the spines of its witnesses.

One legend maintains that the bells from a forgotten church are rung out by legendary religious inhabitants from a bygone era.

But who could these people be, and why would they want to perform this deed in a place that has no relevance to such traditions today?

Phantom armies are also reported to parade the roads of Wales as if in search of something or even someone, yet no sound is ever heard. Eerie sounds from invisible children have also been heard at this time of year, with their loud singing echoing across the land throughout the ages.

But where could these children be from, and why would they want to continue singing in an age beyond their time on the earth's plane? But Fact or Fiction? Only you can decide...

Anne Thomas

Also taking part are

Couple's Royal memento after Rachel's long labour!



Rachel and Rob Saunders, with baby Harrison.



ABOVE: The silver penny, as it arrived from the Royal Mint.

by PHILIP IRWIN

NO new mother wants a long labour, but for Cowbridge girl Rachel Saunders there was a very special consolation – a Royal gift of a silver penny!

However, it was the furthest thing from her mind as she waited, not too patiently, for the arrival of her baby son, Harrison.

After all, her husband Rob had first driven her to the University Hospital in Cardiff on Friday, July 19. That proved a false alarm, but she was back again on the Saturday, and the labour dragged on until young Harrison – her first child – finally arrived on Monday, July 22 – the same day as Prince George of Cambridge.

Rachel told The GEM: "I had been aware that the royal baby was due about the same time, but we weren't paying much attention over the

weekend."

It was when Rachel and her new baby were back home in Bonvilston that her brother phoned to tell her that babies born on the same day as Prince George qualified for a commemorative silver penny, that was being produced by the Royal Mint in Llantrisant.

The silver pennies were on a 'first come, first served' basis, so Rachel's family made sure her application was in quickly, and she received the special present a short time ago.

Since then, things have gone well, and Harrison is thriving. The couple's friends have been busy snapping up Prince George commemorative items, and Rachel and Rob have the beginnings of quite a collection!

Oh yes! There have been quite a few letters and cards arriving, addressed to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge!

!

'Challenge Wales' up for £50,000 lottery vote

THE Challenge Wales youth sailing charity is one of only six groups in Wales that have been shortlisted to battle for the public vote and £50,000 of lottery cash in ITV's *The People's Millions TV Competition*.

Challenge Wales will make a bid for viewers' support to win the £50,000, with the public voting by phone to decide who wins the prize. On Monday, November 25, Challenge Wales will highlight on ITV Wales its 'Turning the Tide' project which focuses on using sailing as an activity to develop self-confidence for visually impaired and blind young people.

Vicky Williams, trustee, states: "Our Turning the Tide project aims to make sailing on Challenge Wales more accessible to visually impaired young people.

"We want to be able to offer them the same opportunity as anyone else and come onboard for a new sensory experience, develop self-con-

fidence, enjoy a fun social activity and make new friends..

"If we win, the money will be used to provide taster and residential voyages for visually impaired young people and their buddies in north, west and south Wales, provide specialised equipment including an audio-compass and tactile sailing charts and provide transport to make it easy for visually impaired young people to travel from home to the boat."

Challenge Wales volunteers and supporters will be filming a TV appeal with ITV Wales on Friday, November 15 and from now until Monday, November 25 will be raising awareness of the public vote and encouraging people to vote on the night.

To support Challenge Wales visit <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/2013-finalists/wales>.



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Don't gamble with life – HAVE THE FLU JAB

SOME people are gambling with their lives by not having the flu jab even though they can get it for free, says Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

It warns failure to have the vaccine could lead to those in the high-risk groups ending up on a ventilator or on dialysis – or worse.

And if they think that will never happen to them, Princess of Wales Hospital-based Ant Osborne knows all too well that it could.

Dr Osborne is a consultant in anaesthesia and critical care.

He said: "We see people throughout the year, particularly during the winter, who have respiratory failure due to flu.

"People who are high risk have much less physiological room for manoeuvre. They are more likely to contract flu and less able to fight it off.

"These patients may need to be ventilated, and they could need dialysis or iontophoresis to keep them going.

"Some cases are even more complicated, and progress to multiple

organ failure. They need lots of support."

"The course of illness could be a few days on a ventilator, but may end up being weeks. Most patients then need weeks of rehabilitation and some of them die."

Dr Osborne added: "For most people flu is just an unpleasant if short illness, but for some it can be very serious. When you can have the vaccine for free it just isn't worth taking a chance."

ABMU is encouraging people in high-risk groups to have the NHS

flu jab.

They include pregnant women; those aged 65 and over; anyone aged six months and older with a chronic condition; people in long-stay residential care; carers; children aged 2 or 3 years on September 1, and all children in School year-7.

These groups can be vaccinated free of charge by their GP. Vaccination sessions for children in year-7 will be held in school.

If you are in a high-risk group but cannot

get to your GP you can have the NHS vaccination from specific local pharmacies. Check out our flu vaccination section at www.abm.wales.nhs.uk.

Mr Osborne said: "We have noticed that, since the flu vaccine has been given out, the number of cases has reduced significantly. So for some people the vaccine will be life-saving."

DOG OF THE WEEK Bouncer has a big heart

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219)

BOUNCER is a three-year-old crossbreed, and is a big boy, with a big heart and a lot of love to give to the right person.

He is nervous with new people, and will take his time to get to know you, but is really worth the effort, as he will be very caring and loyal. He is active, and really enjoys his walks.

He would like to find an adult only home with an owner who is used to large breeds. He is house-trained, and fine to be left alone for a few hours.

If you can offer Bouncer, or any of our other dogs a loving home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend – we are open 12pm-4pm, every day except Monday. You can also see Bouncer and some of his friends on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk, or for regular updates of our dogs, follow us on Twitter @DT_Bridgend.

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, November 15 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

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Tory leader launches attack on Welsh Government's £8.5m refurbishment

W E L S H million spent in the last two financial years. Conservatives claim they have uncovered millions of pounds of waste by the Welsh Labour Government when refurbishing their Cardiff offices.

The figures were released by the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, and he said the spend brought to mind "the opulence of the last days of the Roman Empire".

He said the Welsh Government's Finance Minister and Vale AM Jane Hutt has signed off £8.5 million to refurbish the offices – on top of £9

tting local councils throughout Wales and the Welsh NHS continues face record-breaking cuts, yet Labour can find millions to pay for brand new televisions, laptops and soft seating".

"Just because you redecorate the living room it doesn't mean you need to buy a flash new flat screen television and while Jane and her colleagues sit in their £3.2 million luxury offices in Cardiff Bay, her own Labour councillors are warning of armageddon for public services.

"Spending more than £6,000 on a 75-inch flat screen TV shows extraordinary extravagance. It all brings to mind the opulence of the last days of the Roman Empire.

"This money could have paid for a cancer

treatment fund such as exists in England, infrastructure investment or to support hardworking people.

"Instead, Welsh Labour decided that it was more important to buy 88 brand new TVs."

A spokesman for the Welsh Government Permanent Secretary said: "Over the past three years we have reduced the number of properties we operate from nearly 50 per cent, leading to significant and on-going cost savings. But we also have a duty to ensure that the remaining buildings are maintained in a func-

tional and safe condition. Parts of Cathays Park, which is a listed building, were simply not fit for purpose and required some investment to meet current environmental and operational standards.

"The work at Ty Hywel was the first time the accommodation had been refurbished in over 14 years, and work was carried out to make best use of the available space and repair damage caused by water leakages from the roof.

"The TV screens are by no means a 'luxury', they are used by staff to

monitor Assembly business,

with larger screens used for presentations to companies and external organisations and video conferencing facilities used to reduce costs associated with travelling between offices.

"The savings achieved

from our cost reduction programme are expected to be considerably higher than the cost of on-going

maintenance – with

£1.8m over the period of

the current reduction pro-

gramme, and from 2015

a further £50m reduc-

tion in building running costs

over the subsequent 10

years."

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You're invited to 'Grow Wild'!

ORGANISATIONS and community groups in south Wales are invited to apply for growing grants between £500 and £5000 from Grow Wild to create exciting, transformational wild flower sites in their local area.

Grow Wild is a £10.5m nationwide initiative to inspire people and communities to come together to sow, grow and support UK native wild flowers, led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and backed by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Grow Wild community sites programme has more than half a million pounds available over the next three years for local groups and organisations throughout the UK who put forward the most exciting and inspirational ideas to give neglected and uncared-for spaces a new lease of life for everyone to enjoy.

Claire Harcup, programme manager at Grow Wild, said: "We want to hear from community and volunteer groups, including youth groups, who would like Grow Wild to help them realise a vision of transforming an unloved area into a wildlife friendly space in which everyone will love featuring UK native wild flowers.

"It could be anything from a garden that celebrates the area's history and heritage to a project that simply brings unused space back to life for the benefit of local people."

To find out more about applying to become a Grow Wild community site, visit www.growwilduk.com for more information.

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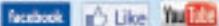
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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society

I WOULD like to thank Steve Maddern for providing the review in this article on the platinum celebratory annual concert; Steve is a member of the Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society.

The society recently performed *Jekyll and Hyde*, a top-class production which oozed quality befitting the West End.

The production team of Sarah Thomas, Susan Bickle and Susan Heffrey, along with assistants Sian Rees and Richard Norton, succeeded in obtaining tremendous performances from everyone on the stage.

Neil Parker as Dr Jekyll/Mr Hyde was outstanding.

In the engagement party scene, he sang a lovely song with his fiancée Emma Carew (Rhiannon Hughes) 'Take me as I am'. Emma then joined with her father Sir Danvers Carew (Jim Lediard) in a duet 'Letting Go'.

Lucy Harris (Kelly Allen) impressed singing 'Bring on the Men', and Meredith Lewis also impressed as Nellie.

Jekyll decided to try chemicals on himself in

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
 1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
 TEL: 01656 725399
 email: tynycoid1@yahoo.co.uk



his laboratory and sang 'This is the Moment', an outstanding song, before he changed into Mr Hyde.

'Tenderness' was another beautiful song sung by Lucy Harris (Kelly Allen) as Jekyll treats the wounds inflicted on her by Hyde. Lucy continues with 'Someone Like You' revealing her love of Jekyll and appreciation of his kindness.

In Jekyll's lab Emma visits Jekyll where she sings 'Once Upon A Dream' – a beautiful and poignant moment before 'Streak of Madness' in which Jekyll reflects on the forces he has unleashed.

The duet 'Dangerous Game' with Hyde and Lucy is both sexy and sinister. As Utterson learns the truth, he leaves Jekyll to reflect on his experiment.

In 'The Red Rat', Utterson delivers Jekyll's letter of warning to Lucy where she sings 'A New Life'; Lucy sings about her dream of escaping her life as a prostitute as Hyde appears and murders her.

The confrontation between Jekyll and Hyde could have been farcical. It was not. It was an astonishing performance by Neil Parker.

The supporting cast of Gwyn James as Poole and Lewis Scott as Simon Stride both put in fantastic performances, along with Kevan Lloyd, Jane Mullins, Rhys Davies, Richard Lewis, Roger Thomas, Wayne Phillips, Sarah Bickle, Susan Bickle, Samantha Cox, Lauren Goldsworthy, Elin Heffey, Ben Isaac, Clare Isaac, Brad James, Ruth Jenkins, Rhodri John, Ian G Jones, Leanne Morgan, Leigh Owen, Bethan Skye, Megan Dionne Evans-Thomas, Ruth Whelan and the 'Red Rat Girls' Katie Bickle, Nia Pickrell, Sian Rees, Nia Scourfield, and Bethan Thomas.

Of the many shows that have been staged by the operatic society over the past 70 years, this must have rated as one of the very best, and continued the tradition of top-quality pro-

duction values by the society.

Christian Aid

THERE will be a concert in Central Church, Maesteg, on Thursday, November 14, by Maesteg Children's Choir to help raise funds for the above charity.

The choir will be conducted by its musical director Enid Sian-Hughes, and the accompanist for the evening will be Sian Davies.

There will also be two soloists, both finalists in the Bridgend 'Young Singer' of the year competition, Rhian Hughes and Aled Williams, and both were brilliant stars in the recent Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society show of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir
 LAST week, the choir flew out to Croatia to represent Wales in a cultural exchange visit.

They were meeting a Croatian group and a Latvian choir in sharing and learning about music making in Croatia – called Klapa music.

The choir had a party of just under 30 choristers who sang in a performance with both Croatian and Welsh songs.

This exchange had been co-ordinated by Creation Developments in the Garw Valley under the initial guidance of David Pugh and subsequently Jonathan Price. The choir have, over the past few months, been working hard to learn two Croatian folk songs ready to perform to their hosts.

The choir had a number of concerts in Croatia and returned last Sunday, November 10.

Earlier in the year, two representatives of the Ogmore Choir visited Latvia to learn about their traditions in music making to bring back to Ogmore ready for the choir to start learning two Latvian songs. The temperature was -10C in Latvia during this visit.

The third leg of the exchange will take place in April 2014, when the choir will be hosting both the Croatian and Latvian music groups in a number of performances in Bridgend county borough.

Llangewydd Junior School
 PUPILS in the school are celebrating after



Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society's production of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

scoring top marks in an Estyn inspection – the first to be carried out since Bryntirion Juniors became part of the school earlier this year.

The inspectors had judged the school's overall performance to be 'good' and its prospects for improvement 'excellent'. The report delivered further 'excellent' ratings across a range of categories including pupil wellbeing, learning experiences, teaching, leadership, partnership working, support, guidance and improving quality and care.

It also described the school's resource management, learning environment and standards as all being 'good', and praised the school for an 'outstanding' approach to ICT, quality of teaching and provision of pupil care, support and guidance.

Because of head-teacher Susan Davies' efforts, Estyn have also asked her to write two case studies which will be used to help drive improvements at other schools in Wales, one on the effect of strong leadership on the quality of teaching and another looking at how schools can improve their self-evaluation procedures.

Bridgend Foodbank
 THE charity wishes to thank the pupils of Betws Primary School, members of St David's Church Betws, St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid and St John's Church, Aberkenfig, who through their Harvest festivities have managed to donate 151 kilos of food, and collected £200 at the same time, which they gave to the charity. Well done to everyone involved.

Charity concert
 A CONCERT was recently held at St John's Church, Aberkenfig, to raise funds for the 'Saying Goodbye' charity.

The local male voice choir, Bois Goetre-Hen A'r Cylch, started its performance with 'Ride the Chariot'. Two soloists, Morgan Williams and Rhys Davies, sang 'A little less conversation' and the choir then sang

'Gwin Beaujolais' written by north Walian composer Robat Arwyn.

Accompanist Bethan Edwards then played a solo on the piano – Beethoven's 'Moonlight' Sonata, which was greeted by great applause. Leading up to the interval the choir's trio of songs were 'Bring him home', 'Deep River' then 'Nella Fantasia' with soloist Rhys Davies.

Compere Norman John had the audience in fits of laughter with his monologues when he brought the first half to a close.

Mr Dale Evans, the musical director, then brought the choir back out from the vestry where they had been well fed on cakes provided by Maureen and Jane during the interval.

The second half started with a Sondheim medley by soloist Rhys Davies, then the choir with the haunting strains of 'Fields of Gold' including a solo verse by Ralph Ivens, then the Welsh hymn 'O Jesu Mawr' followed.

The final three songs were 'Something inside so strong', soloist Richard Howells, 'Someone like you', soloist Morgan Williams and finally that stirring Welsh hymn 'Gwahoddiad'.

Mike, who stood in for Reverend Stephen, expressed the heartfelt thanks of all present and especially thanked Jane Phillips and all the others who had worked so hard to make the concert a success. The sum of £423 was raised for



The show's chorus girls.

Tondu Primary School
 TOMORROW November 15 is 'Children in Need' day and the children are invited to attend school dressed in as many different colours as possible.

Headteacher Susan Pilcher would like to express her gratitude to the PTA for its magnificent effort in raising funds for the school, when it recently donated a cheque for the value of £1,000. The money has been used for the purchase of tablet computers for pupils.

She added that the PTA is organising a Christmas shopping trip to Bath on Saturday, November 30 at £9 per person.

No shocks in quiz cup first round

THE first round of the KO Cup took place on Monday, October 4, and although there were two very close scores, the only somewhat surprising result was that

Llangewydd Arms only beat Laleston Inn A by four points, 74-70.

There were two heavy defeats, Crown Inn B 68-20 against Bush Kangaroos and Pheasant gamekeepers' 70-40 win versus Oldcastle B.

2. The National Trail known as the Pilgrim's Way runs from Canterbury to which city?

3. Who is the last Scotsman to score a try in a Lions Test match?

4. New York City is on

approximately the same line of latitude as which European capital?

Alan Rudge (for Quiz League)

1. Helen Fielding's novel *Bridget Jones's Diary* began as a column in which newspaper?
2. Which author wrote *Independent*?
3. Alan Titchmarsh
4. Madrid

Therapists launch teenage stammer support group



Teenagers with a stammer can receive special support from the ABMU.

ABMU Health Board's children's speech and language therapists have launched a special support group for young people with a stammer.

Teenagers aged between 13 and 16 attend the sessions to meet people with similar experiences. They are able to talk openly and confidently, sharing information, advice and support.

A speech and language therapist is also on hand to teach techniques which help with a stammer. These include slowing speech down, pausing during sentences and freezing speech on the stutter until the tension passes. The therapist helps the teenager decide which one is right for them so they can practice it with other members of the group.

Claire Hayes-Rees, speech and lan-

guage therapist, said: "Having a stammer makes people feel self-conscious and isolated, especially as they are growing up, so it is important they have the opportunity to meet people of a similar age with similar experiences."

"We already hold groups for those in primary school and those moving up to high school. It was actually these children who gave us the idea to start the group, as they want to continue meeting as they grow older. The group is open access, so anyone who feels they could benefit is more than welcome to come along."

The group meets every six weeks at the Neath Port Talbot Resource Centre and the next session is on Wednesday, December 4 at 4.15pm. For more information, contact the speech and language team on 01639 862718.

Earlier in the year, two representatives of the Ogmore Choir visited Latvia to learn about their traditions in music making to bring back to Ogmore ready for the choir to start learning two Latvian songs. The temperature was -10C in Latvia during this visit.

The third leg of the exchange will take place in April 2014, when the choir will be hosting both the Croatian and Latvian music groups in a number of performances in Bridgend county borough.

Llangewydd Junior School
 PUPILS in the school are celebrating after

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Elba. TV unit RRP £459 Sale £229
VOUCHER PRICE £179

Elba. 2 Dr 3 Drw Sideboard RRP £879 Sale £439
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Elba. Tall display cabinet RRP £639 Sale £319
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Libraries are making old photos available

A CAMPAIGN to put Barry's history online is calling for residents to search their attics for old photographs to add to the growing collection.

Library staff behind the 'Picture the Vale' project held the first 'Digital Heritage Day' at Barry Library in October, and residents raided their photo albums for images of Barry to add to the online catalogue.

An exhibition of old photographs generated a lot of interest and several members of the public were able to identify locations and tell stories about some of the photo-

graphs. Several people brought in photographs, collections of local postcards and other memorabilia, and volunteers are now hard at work cataloguing the photo-

graphs. Vale libraries are calling for residents to bring more photographs to the next event at Barry Library on Friday, November 29, from 10am to 4pm. All images will be scanned and returned to the owner.

The digital heritage day forms part of the 'Picture the Vale' project, funded by a grant from CyMAL, in collaboration with People's Collection Wales.

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The First Step to a Better Smile



Airport chief Jon speaks at leadership event

THE chief executive of Cardiff Airport will discuss the implications of returning to a former place of work at a special event this month.

Jon Horne, who took over the running of the airport earlier this year, was the airport's managing director between 2001 and 2007, before

moving to other senior posts in the aviation industry.

The Welsh

Government bought the airport in April this year and appointed Mr Horne soon afterwards.

He will give a rare insight into his thinking behind returning to the airport, when he speaks at an event organised by Leadership & Management Wales, the

Free computer course on offer

THE Vale Council-led Barry Communities

First team, in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning, is launching a basic IT skills course in Barry Library and the Community Enterprise Centre, next door to Holm View Leisure Centre.

The five-week accredited course is aimed at those who have never used a computer or are very inexperienced. The first round of courses will start on Monday, November 18 with the one at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, running

from 10am - 12pm and one at Barry Library from 1pm - 3pm.

Spaces on these courses are limited but more courses will be running from the beginning of January. To be eligible, you must live in a Barry Communities First area which includes parts of

Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown.

For more information or to book a place, telephone 01446 709541 or email Communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Welsh Government's centre for excellence for leadership and management development.

'An Audience with Jon Horne' is part of LMW's Challenge series, and will take place at the airport on November 14. The event is free, but places are limited and must be booked.

"Chief executive of Cardiff Airport is one of the most high-profile and highly-scrutinised management positions in Wales," said LMW's director Dr Barrie Kennard. "Jon's decision to take up this challenging role, six years after leaving, surprised some observers."

"It will be fascinating to hear his thoughts on how going back can sometimes be the right way to move forward."

To book a free place at the event, go to: <https://www.lmw.org.uk/vent-an-audience-with-jon-horne-the-return-flight/> or phone Leadership & Management Wales on 029 2087 6560.

Poison fat is threat to dogs

THE Vale Council is reporting cases of rancid fat washing up on the area's coastline.

There is no threat to human health, as long as it is not ingested, but there is a problem with dogs eating it. Several dogs in the Ogmore area have needed urgent veterinary treatment for serious poisoning.

The council's environmental health officers are investigating and say there were similar cases on the Cornish coast a few weeks ago. They are advising dog owners to keep their dogs off beaches. Children are unlikely to be drawn to the material, but, of course, parents should keep their children away from the substance.

The council's waste management department will be inspecting and clearing the coastline of the white substance on a daily basis until it stops washing up on the beaches.

NEW LOCAL ART EXHIBITION ATTRACTS CROWDS



Admiration for local artist Margaret Brown.

SATURDAY saw another large entry into the Winter Open Art Exhibition, at the Travellers Gallery in the Mind Café, on Platform 1 on Barry Station. (www.mindinthevale.org.uk).

The changing art exhibitions are a joint venture between the charity and the Vale of Glamorgan Artists group (www.vogavaleart.org).

Visitors and travellers to the café on Platform 1 can now see a great variety of local artistic talent on display, as well as enjoy good food and a warm welcome from the dedicated staff.

The exhibition runs until January 10, 2014; 7am - 12 noon each weekday.

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£1,000 raised for great cause Candy's Shop of Horrors show for charity!



There was a 'Candy's Shop Of Horrors' charity event on November 8 at The Savoy in Barry to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales. It was a Hallowe'en themed burlesque evening and raised £1,000. Among the performances were 'Thriller', 'Timewarp', and 'Phantom of the Opera'. The performers are pictured with organiser Anna Prin who is shown front right.

Council starts review of its library services

THE future of the Vale Council's library service is to be the subject of a public consultation.

A review of the library service started in September and it was decided that both library staff and Vale residents should be asked for their views on how the service might be provided in the future.

Providing a library service is one of the council's 'statutory' duties – it is required by law to provide one.

Coun Stuart Egan, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for adult services, who is leading the library review working group, said: "We know our library staff provide a successful and popular service and we want to look at how we can best protect our libraries now and in the future. Many councils are trying new ways of working with communities to create sustainable library services, and we want to do this too."

"It is not only the

financial challenges we are facing, the internet is changing the way many people use libraries. As part of the review we will be looking at some of the innovations introduced elsewhere to see if they would work here in the Vale to provide modern affordable services."

"We'll be talking to our library customers, staff and Vale residents in general, to find out how we can best provide the service that people want, while still meeting our challenging savings targets."

The consultation survey will be available on

Adoption campaign is supported by AM

E L U N E D P A R R O T T , Assembly Member for South Wales Central, is backing a campaign to encourage more people from all backgrounds to consider adoption, as new research reveals that myths

Figures show that a fifth of Welsh people believe single people are not eligible to adopt and a charity is worried this misconception may have contributed to the low number (nine per cent) of adoptions by single people last year.

The 'Adopting Attitudes' exhibition was unveiled in the Senedd on November 6, 2013 and is available to view online at www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption/stories/adopting-attitudes.

Those looking for more information on adoption are advised to call the Adoption UK enquiry line on 0844 848 7900 or email wales@adoptionuk.org.uk.
This will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at 10am to 12 midday. No appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information, or just come along.

GF

GEM PROPRIETOR HONOURED AT VETERAN CAR RUN

SIR Ray Tindle, the proprietor of The Glamorgan GEM, was recently honoured by the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.

Hagerty International, the UK's classic vehicle insurance specialist, presented the Hagerty London to Brighton Veteran Car Run Achievement Award on Saturday evening prior to the run.

Tindle Newspapers' representative, Christopher Linton-Willoughby, accepted the award on behalf of Sir Ray Tindle.

"Sir Ray's involvement with the Veteran Car Run has helped the event become what it is today," stated Angus Forsyth, managing director of Hagerty International.

"His continued support as a sponsor,

coupled with the fact that this will be his 50th entry into the run should be recognised.

"I am greatly honoured to accept this award on behalf of Sir Ray Tindle," said Christopher when presented with the silver trophy.

"On behalf of Sir Ray and all participants, we all remain enormously grateful to all the companies involved in putting on this spectacular event. Sir Ray's own involvement has given him years of pleasure and he is delighted to receive such a prestigious award."

The Royal Automobile Club's 2013 London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, took place on Sunday, November 3. The world's longest running motoring event celebrated its 116th anniversary of the 1896 Emancipation Run. For more information visit <http://veterancarrun.com/>

Police seek local man

POLICE in the Vale are appealing to the public for information as to the whereabouts of 23-year-old Teejay Thomas.

Thomas, who is from Llantwit Major, is wanted on recall to prison. He is also believed to have connections with the Cardiff area.

Anybody with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting reference number 62130351356, or the individual should hand himself in at the nearest police station.



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HYUNDAI



High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



JUST 15 DAYS UNTIL THE BIG CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON AT BARRY'S HIGH STREET

ONE of the great days in Barry's calendar is the switching on of the Christmas lights in High Street.

This year it will take place on Friday, November 29, and there will be a special festive competition for the children on that day.

The acting chairman of High Street traders, Bob Armstrong, told The GEM: "The competition is going to be for children to draw a set of Christmas lights. The person with the winning entry will see their design produced, and a part of next year's

lights!"

Traditionally, thousands of people descend on High Street for the 'switch-on'. People don't just come from Barry and other areas of the Vale; some come from as far away as Cardiff and the Valleys.

People enjoy the excited, friendly atmosphere, the outstanding shopping, and the thrill, that with High Street illuminated, Christmas is just around the corner.

Bob added: "We have also got great entertainment on the

night including 'Fanshaw's Performers', Archibald Grottlington and Herbert Skittle, otherwise known as international award-winning magic entertainers, Jasper Blakeley and Frank E Haschka.

"There will be children's rides, bouncy castles, Punch and Judy, choirs and theatrical performances."

Island Road will close at 1.30pm on the day. The main closure of High Street will take place at 3pm, and the roads will open at 9pm. The lights will be switched on between 5.45pm and 6pm.

Great Christmas shopping can only mean a visit to Barry's own West End...



Ian and Jodie of Butterflies can advise you on their popular Yankee Candles

BARRY'S West End – High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street – has never had a better selection of Christmas presents and offers.

Festive shopping can be a stressful experience, but a few hours browsing the local shops will calm those nerves and pay rich dividends.

The West End has a great selection of gifts for all the family.

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Miss Holmes is a classy boutique full of great gifts, and is an example of a business that has something for everyone.

The owner, Nicola, explained: "Miss Holmes stocks a range of branded gifts for all the family."

"We have done the legwork for our clients by selecting the top 10 best sellers across a number of brands, saving them car parking charges elsewhere and supplying them locally in High Street.

"We offer a personal shopping experience, helping people to select the perfect gift for their nearest and dearest.

"Do your Christmas or gift shopping in-store with us and you can take advantage of our interest free payment plan – just ask for details.

"We also offer a gift wrapping service for those a little less creative – something extremely popular with our male customers!"

She pointed out: "Bulaggi bags, powder scarfs, woolly hats and mitts, in beautiful chunky knits, have just arrived for the new season.

"We also have Nougat Naturals, the exciting new addition to the Nougat London collection; Ted Baker Handbag Essentials; Christmas decorations and stocking fillers.

"Call in the store today and sample the latest Christmas fragrances for the very popular Fragrance Lamp. Mention The

GEM and your will receive 10 per cent off for every £50 you spend!"

Nicola suggests gift vouchers as an alternative gift.

TRADITIONAL

If you want to celebrate a traditional Christmas, Giggles Toyshop in High Street is a must visit.

Marie Jones opened in February and has been delighted with the response of local people.

"We sell lots of traditional wooden toys, soft toys, rag dolls, stocking fillers starting at just 40p; 'Melissa and Doug' children's costumes, remote control stunt racers, and 'chuckling and rolling' animals.

"One of the best sellers is the puppet theatre."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 29th November 2013	High Street Barry, between Market Street and East Street	3.00pm to 8.00pm
Friday 29th November 2013	Island Road Barry, between Broad Street and Queen Street	1.00pm to 9.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 14th day of November 2012

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
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**CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 17**

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a lifetime – individual
or family portraits, or
boudoir shoots. Images
start at £25, and there
are a number of pack-
ages available.

Customers can either
pay to have photographs
taken or purchase
vouchers towards them,
starting from just £25.

Mark said: "I moved
here two years ago and
just last week had two
repeat customers among
my clients - that demon-
strates the business is
growing.

"I'm going in the
right direction because
when I've made money
I've ploughed it back
into the business."

Mark's facilities are
impressive: he has two
light, spacious studios, a
boudoir set, and a make-
up area. Nothing is left
to chance in the search
for the perfect photo-
graph. (Mark is also
expert at delivering
those memorable wed-
ding images).

BICYCLES

Since the Olympics,
British people have
become obsessed with

cycling – where once
we were also-rans, we
are now world beaters,
and Beespoke Cycles on
High Street provides all
the bikes and expert
advice you will ever
need.

Butterflies

"We stock a large range
including BMX mountain
bikes, road bikes,
racers and hybrids,
along with a compre-
hensive range of acces-
sories.

"We also have a
Christmas savings club
that can help towards
your purchase.

"The shop has top

makes including
Saracen mountain bikes,
Dawes, Moda, Dirty,
Sunday and Probike."

Beespoke Cycles will
also provide vital back
up with servicing and
repairs.

CANDLES

Butterflies, run by
Jodie and Ian Weaver,
boasts some of the
world's best candles –
Yankee Candles, which
have become a world-famous
brand.

Jodie said: "We are
the largest stockist in
the Vale and when we
hold events, the branch
is packed. Customers

can pop in and see us or
go to our Facebook
pages 'Yankee Candles
of Barry' or 'Butterflies
Barry'."

So what is so special
about the candles?

Ian explained: "They
comprise triple-layered
wax, have fragrance and
last a long time."

The fragrant smell in
the branch bears testi-
mony to the allure of
Yankee Candles.

Jodie and Ian also sell
Boofle – children's
plush toys.

The Shahi Noor

FULLY LICENSED RESTAURANT AND TAKEAWAY FURNISHED IN A CONTEMPORARY STYLE

Special Set Menu for 2 ONLY £25

Available Sunday to Thursday (restaurant only)

Mix Starter: Chicken Tikka, Lamb Tikka and Sheek Kebab. **Main Course:** Chicken or Lamb Bhuna, Aloo Gobi, Pilau Rice, Pappadum and Naan Bread. 2 glasses of wine or 2 small bottles of beer or 2 glasses of Coke.

ROYAL SET MEAL
Normally £36.95 - NOW only £30

Available Sunday-Saturday (restaurant only)

Starters: Junga King Prawn Puree and Chicken Tikka Root.

Main Course: Chicken Tikka Massala, Lamb Bhuna, Broccoli Bahji, Mushroom Fried Rice, Naan and Coffee. Bottle of House red or white wine or 2 large Cobra beers.

Special Christmas Party Menu available!

Bookings now being taken.

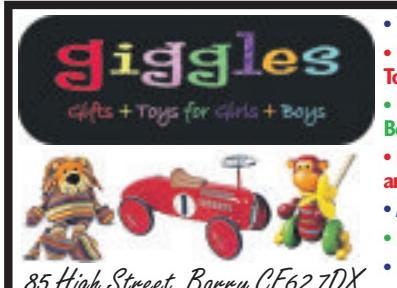
Lunchtime party bookings must be booked in advance (minimum of 10 people)

OPENING HOURS
12.00 noon - 2.30pm (bookings only)
5.30pm - 1.00am Monday to Sunday

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BARRY CF62 7DX**
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www.shahinoor.com

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- Ragdolls & Soft Toys
- Welsh and English Books
- Newborn Gifts and Toys
- Arts & Crafts
- Puzzles & Games
- Pocket Money Toys

Facebook
Giggles Barry



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Tel: 01446 734866 • giggletoys@gmail.com
Come and visit Photoart Gallery at Giggles

10% DISCOUNT on production of this advert



4 Island Road, Barry, CF62 7AR Tel: 01446 732017

Still Images

8 High Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
01446 678099

£85 Gift
Voucher

Any Photo Product After
A Booked Studio Session

£25 Booking Fee
applies

Can not be used with
any other promotion



Gift Voucher
only one voucher per photograph session
expires 31-12-13



High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



Ladies... book early for that hair or beauty appointment



ABOVE: Michaela (pictured) and her staff at The Beauty Clinic have late nights on Thursdays and Fridays until 7pm.

FOR ladies getting ready for the Christmas party season, now is the time to book an appointment for a special beauty treatment or to have their hair done.

West End provides just the solution – The Beauty Clinic, which offers a full range of beauty treatments by fully qualified therapists, is based in High Street; and Salon 23 is located on Broad Street.

Sessions and appointments in the lead up to Christmas go quickly, so it is advisable to think ahead, and book now. The Beauty Clinic has late nights on Thursdays and Fridays until 7pm, and is open on Saturdays until 5pm (tel 01446 743222).

To book an appointment at Salon 23, tel 01446 733596.

Three top shops host exclusive evening event

THERE'S a special Christmas shopping evening from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday, November 28 at High Street, Barry.

It is an exclusive event hosted by Jones & Jones, Miss Holmes and Bryls Boutique. A dazzling 10 per cent is off everything on the night from all three stores!

View the full collections of designer eyewear and sunglasses from Tom Ford, Swarovski, Diesel, Givenchy, Police and Ted Baker, gift vouchers will also be available on the night!

View the latest Christmas gift ideas and pick up that perfect gift at Miss Holmes, with ranges from Cath Kidston, Ashleigh & Burwood, Woodwick, Willow Tree, Carrie Elspeth, and the Nougat beauty collection – there will be plenty of Christmas goodies to tempt you!

Step out in style this festive season, and pick up your party wear at Bryls Boutique. View the current season delights from Ted Baker, UGG, Traffic People, French Connection and Great Plains, to name a few!

It is an ideal opportunity to find that Christmas gift for someone special, and enjoy a mince pie and glass of fizz!

Full collections of designer eyewear and sunglasses from:

An Exclusive Christmas Shopping Event
Looking for that perfect gift?
Great discounts on designer clothing, eyewear and accessories.
THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2013
6pm to 8pm at High Street, Barry

10% off
EVERYTHING on Thursday 28th November 6pm-8pm

**Diesel • Tom Ford • Givenchy
Swarovski • Police • Ted Baker**

20% OFF Get 20% off at Jones & Jones by registering at info@jonesandjones.org.uk

Join us all for a mince pie and a glass of fizz!

JONES & JONES OPTOMETRISTS

Bryls Boutique

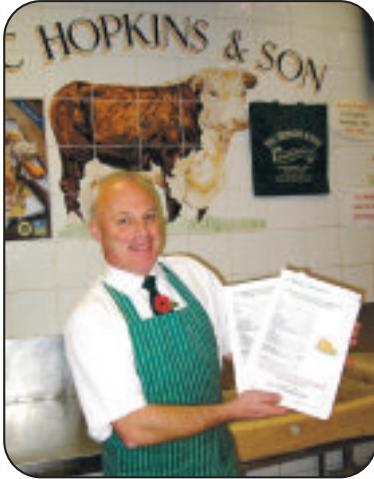


DAWN CLINIC
Awaken to a more youthful you
3 Areas of botox **only £200**
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www.dawnclinic.com

Butterflies
74 High Street Barry CF62 7DW
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Cards, Gifts, Jewellery, Christmas Decorations,
Plaques and Home Accessories
ALSO The Largest Stockist of The Worlds Best
Loved Candles 'YANKEE CANDLES' in the Vale
FREE Gift Wrapping
FREE Delivery in Barry on Orders Over £10
Follow us on Facebook for our Great Offers
'Butterflies Barry'

Making preparations for the Christmas turkey!



ABOVE:
Tony Hopkins of Vic Hopkins and Son told The GEM: "People can pick up their Christmas order forms at the store. They need to get them back to us by Tuesday, December 17 with their £10 deposit."

Sanctuary
Fancy Dress, T-Shirt Printing & Fair Trade Gifts
10% off
Christmas & New Year Party Costumes
with this advert

A great selection of fancy dress for all occasions
★ Print Service for T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Clubs, Workwear, Hen & Stag etc. ★
★ Fair Trade and locally hand made gifts

Find us on Facebook
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31 High Street, Barry
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Major Credit/Debit Cards Accepted

CHICK'S ANTIQUES
NOW OPEN AT
16 HIGH STREET, BARRY
A Gift to be Treasured this Christmas
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THE BEAUTY CLINIC
For a Sparkly Christmas from Top to Toe

- New OPI sparkly gel colours
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 - Glitzy Lips
 - Swarovski Crystal Toes
 - Minx Nail Art
 - Vajazzle Bikini Gems
 - Sparkly Eyelashes
 - Twinkle your Tresses with Hair Gems and Sparkly Accessories
- We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas
- ALLSTA MOTORS**
Local, Reliable Service for over 40 Years
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 - Engine Diagnostics
 - Parts & Accessories
- MOT'S & SERVICING CENTRE**
- We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas
- TEL: BARRY (01446) 740358**
THE GARAGE, MARKET STREET, BARRY

Christmas gift vouchers & gift packs.
Book now for your appointment

43 HIGH STREET, BARRY
Tel. 01446 743222



High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



LEFT:
Julie Rogers
of Salon 23
on Broad
Street is
already book-
ing clients in
for their
Christmas
appointments.

SHE WEARS IT WELL & THE GALLERY BOUTIQUE

LADIES CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

A selection of perfect Christmas gifts
BAGS, JEWELLERY, SCARVES

A unique
collection!
Have you been
there yet?

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Innovative · Stylish · Professional

A place where haircare is and
always has been
PARAMOUNT...
let us show you
how to get the
best from your
hair...



THE CUT
THE STYLING
THE FINISH
THE RESULT... it matters

Call in, late night opening available
by appointment until Christmas

16 York Place, Barry
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Homemade Wales

♥ Handcrafted Welsh Gifts & Homewares ♥

5 Island Road (off High Street),
Barry CF62 7AR.
www.facebook/homemadewales

TOP SERVICE ON HIGH STREET!



ABOVE: Gerard has a great range of bicycles at Beespoke Cycles. The business also offers back-up and servicing, and lots of expert advice.



Naga has just opened on Broad Street offering Indian cuisine to take away.



LEFT:
Matthew of
Sanctury
Fancy
Dress
and
Gifts
has a great
range of
festive
outfits
on offer.

Beespoke Cycles Barry's No 1 Bicycle Shop

Reserve your Christmas Bike today!
We stock bikes for all the family.
We stock brands including DAWES,
PROBIKE, MODA and new in - SARACEN.

1 High Street, Barry
01446 733880
www.beespokecycles.co.uk



LEFT:
Dr Bobs
Balloons
Unlimited
will always
help put the
fun into
your
Christmas!



THE SHOP FOR EXCLUSIVE GIFTS

- Woodwick Candles
Soy based, crackles as it burns.
- Annie Haak Jewellery
As worn by celebrities
- Ted Baker Mens' & Ladies' quality gifts
- NGT by Nougat of London for men
- Powder Autumn/Winter Collection Scarves
- Snoozies Cosy little foot coverings
- Wridleys House of Novelties
Retro toys, stocking fillers
- Cath Kidston Bath & Beauty
- Carrie Elspeth Jewellery
- Bulaggi Bags
- Nougat Naturals new collection
- Ashleigh & Burwood Best Selling Fragrance Lamps

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Range of Kitchenware & Cookware, Logs, Coal, Paraffin & Kindling, Electric & Oil Portable Heaters. Fireplace Accessories, Coal Buckets, Companion Sets, Bellows etc. Indoor & Outdoor Christmas Lights. Gadgets and Gizmos. Electric Tools, Christmas Novelties & Gift Ideas
Plus lots more!

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ONE OF BARRY'S MOST ESTABLISHED BEAUTY & HOLISTIC THERAPY SALONS

OFFERS: Beauty, Massage and much more!!!!

Our Xmas special is back by popular demand: Every £25* Spent up to 24th December enters you into the Xmas Grand Draw with Prizes Galore (*single transactions only)

Balance Vouchers are the perfect gift – hassle free and always appreciated.

Happy Christmas to Clients new and old from Karen, Suzanne, Corinne and Sam

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Email: beauty@balance-thebody.co.uk
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www.balloons-unlimited.com

Salon 23 HAIR STUDIO

Specialising in colour
Julie & the girls would like to welcome Paige, qualified stylist.

10% Discount for hair appointments booked with Paige until 31/12/13.

A Merry Christmas to all our customers

23 Broad Street, Barry
Tel. 01446 733596

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY

'Hair Design' celebrates its 10th birthday!



Congratulations to everyone at 'Hair Design'
by Lauren Anderson which recently celebrated its 10th birthday.

Hair Design has enjoyed trading from several locations in and around High Street, Barry, and is now settled at 2 Island Road.

Larger premises means that a full beauty service is also now available through Sam at Beautify.

A lot can happen in ten years – dozens of trainees have completed their work experience at Hair Design, families have grown and changed, babies have been born, and

through it all, Hair Design provides not only a professional service, but also that special cup of coffee and a warm welcome, just when you need it.

Special mention should go to Leah, Louise, Niki, Becky and the many, many others we've worked with over the years.

"It's the kind of place where your clients become your friends," said Lauren. "I want to say a big thank you to all my lovely clients. I have the best job in the world, and it's because of them I get to do it."

Happy birthday Hair Design!

The Borough Arms

WEEKDAY HAPPY HOUR:

12-5pm - £2.50 a pint

Christmas & New Year opening hours:

CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DEC
12.00 - 23.30

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH DEC
12.00 - 14.00; 19.30 - 23.00

BOXING DAY 26TH DEC
12.00 - 01.30

NEW YEARS EVE 31ST DEC
12.00 - 01.00

NEW YEARS DAY 1ST JAN
14.00 - 23.30

NEW YEARS EVE:

Live entertainment with 'Ashley Bear Brown' from 8pm-1am

FREE ENTRY -

or £35 for all inclusive drinks and live bands. Tickets available now

Function room available for Christmas parties. Competitive hire prices.

Find us on Facebook:

THE BOROUGH ARMS, BARRY
72 High Street, Barry
Tel. 01446 737060

'Remembrance Day' in Barry draws hundreds to Cenotaph

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

ON a sunlit Remembrance Sunday a large crowd attended the Cenotaph to express their thanks for the people of past generations who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, told The GEM: "On Remembrance Sunday hundreds of people gathered together at King Square and progressed to the Civic Offices where wreaths were laid prior to a moving ceremony at the Cenotaph at the Memorial Hall.

"It was significant that so many people of all generations came together to remember those who gave their lives in the world wars and more recent conflicts."

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, stressed the importance of the younger people being aware of the sacrifice of past generations.

"Through The GEM, may I please pass on my thanks to the Royal British Legion for organising such a successful Remembrance Day march in Barry.

"I would also like to thank the people of Barry for lining the streets and surrounding the Cenotaph to show their respect for those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces.

"I was also delighted to see so many children and young people taking part in the march including various Brownies, Beavers, Scouts and Cadets' groups because it is important that we teach the next generation of citizens the sacrifice so many have made and continue to make to ensure we live the free life that we do today.

"Following the wreath-laying, a service was held in the Memorial Hall and both downstairs and upstairs were full of the people of Barry who wanted



to be part of this act of Remembrance.

"Next year will see the anniversary of 100 years since the start of the Great War and this will be the opportunity for our children to learn of the devastation of conflict but also about the sacrifice made by so many during those few years.

"There may no longer be any living survivors of the First World War, but we will continue to remember them not only during the commemorations next year but we shall continue to show our gratitude every year on Remembrance Sunday," she added.



'Thanks to those who organised commemorations'

FOLLOWING the weekend's Remembrance Sunday services, I wanted to write to thank all those involved in marking such an important commemoration.

Although I could only attend the parade and service in Barry, I know that similar events were being held at the same time throughout the Vale.

The turnouts were amazing and showed the special place in which war veterans and their families are held locally and nationally.

I was especially proud to see the involvement of young people, standing side by side, in respect, to some of our oldest veterans.

These events don't just happen. Members of the Royal British Legion and other local civic groups go to huge lengths to organise the parades and services, along with the clergy, police and many others. All these efforts need to be recognised.

We owe so much to those who have served – and their families. Lest we forget.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

Out and About with The GEM

Philatelic society's autumn fair

BARRY Philatelic Society is holding an autumn fair of stamps, postcards and postal history along with national dealers at the Highlight Community Centre, Barry.

It runs from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday, November 16, admission 50p. Refreshments available. The next fair will be on Saturday, May 3, 2014.

For more details, telephone 01446 741026.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, November 16 from 10am till 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library, King Square. No appointment necessary.

Model club's annual Open Day
THE Barry and Penarth Model railway club is holding its annual Open Day at Cadotown Conservative club on Saturday, November 16. The doors open at 11am and close at 5pm.

The admission cost is £3 for adults/senior citizens and £2 for children.

On display will be the club's fixed layouts, a large five track 00 layout, Holton and an N gauge model of Machynlleth station.

Also on display will be one of the club's new layouts, the new 0 gauge portable under construction.

There will also be on display at least a further five portable layouts belonging to club members, including Lavernock Light, Abbeywood and Ferney Bank. Thomas will also be making an appearance.

Refreshments will be available too.

Attending will be local model railway traders, so if you are thinking of buying someone a model railway for Christmas this might be the opportunity you have been looking for.

Legion's AGM

ROYAL British Legion Llantwit Major is holding

its Annual General Meeting on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5.30pm in the Rugby Club at Llantwit Major.

A warm welcome will be given to anyone who wishes to attend.

A spokesman said: "We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our recent Poppy Appeal."

Diabetes group's meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group will meet next on Tuesday, November 19 at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm-9pm.

The speaker is Dr Richard Chudleigh on 'Kidney complications in diabetes'.

Everyone welcome.

Art society

ON Thursday, November 21, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Caroline Bailey RSW, who will give a demonstration of watercolour and mixed media techniques.

Caroline is a highly accomplished award winning artist who has held numerous one-person exhibitions throughout England (see www.carolinebailey.co.uk).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge 7pm - 9pm and visitors and new members are most welcome.

The society's winter exhibition is also now on at the Old Hall, Cowbridge until Thursday, December 26 where around a 100 paintings in various media are available to purchase.

'Quakers in 21st century'

BRIDGEND Quakers will be hosting a public lecture by Paul Parker, recording clerk for British Quakers.

The topic will be 'Quakers in the 21st century'.

The event will be held at Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday, November 26. For more information contact 01656 890748.

St Illtyd market

ST ILLTYD Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major is holding a Christmas Market on

Friday, November 29 from 6pm - 8.30pm.

Admission is free and entrance is via the main front door (not the school gates).

There will be craft stalls from all over south Wales to give you inspiration for some unique Christmas gifts, along with mince pies, mulled wine and a raffle.

This is a community event and everyone is welcome.

Craft and food fair

THERE will be a Christmas craft and food fair to raise money for the Amelia Trust Farm, 10am - 2.30pm on Saturday, November 30 in St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry, CF62 6NX.

Father Christmas will be taking time out from his busy schedule to visit. Contact Amy Jackson at amyjh@ameliatrust.org.uk or on 01446 782030 for more information.

Grand Pavilion Christmas carols

CAROLS in the Pavilion 2013 is on Monday, December 2 in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, at 7pm.

This year the evening will take the theme of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Singing, dance and readings will be provided by Bridgend Youth Dance Juniors, Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Porthcawl Parkinson Group, Ysgol o'r Ffach Sger, Porthcawl Operatic Society, Llaman Porthcawl, Porthcawl Stroke Club, Bridgend Rock Choir, St John's School, Sounds Familiar, Urrdd Porthcawl and Silures Art.

Carols for everybody will be led by Mike Boyles and David Anderson.

Tickets are on sale at the Pavilion Box at £4.50.

Proceeds to the Mayor of Porthcawl's charities which are Llaman Porthcawl, Stroke Club Porthcawl and Parkinson Group Porthcawl.

Charity evening

GEORGE THOMAS Hospice Care has organised a pamper evening at the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff, on Monday, November 18.

With a range of free treatments including mas-

sage, manicures, pedicures, eyebrow threading, facials and makeovers, this event is always popular.

The evening starts with a sparkling reception at 7pm, and at 7.30pm the doors are opened and the pampering begins.

Tickets are only £13 and can be ordered by calling GTHC on 02920 524150.

Milk Mates craft fair

BARRY Milk Mates are hosting a craft fair on November 23 from 10am-12.30pm in Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry.

Tables are £10 each. Anyone interested in having a table can contact Lynsey on 07903 821063.

Three dates for your Christmas Shopping...

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

Saturday 16th November

Saturday 30th November

Saturday 14th December

For unusual and original gifts, come along this Saturday to

LLANTONIAN HALL, LLANTWIT MAJOR (behind the library)

Enquiries: Contact Peta Shields Email:petashields@gmail.com

Christmas Menu 2013

Homemade Soup

Homemade vegetable soup, served with ciabatta

Chefs Pate

Chef's homemade pate with caramelised onion chutney and melba toast

Devilled Whitebait

Served with lemon wedge and tartare sauce

Melon Boat with Orange Sorbet

MAINS

Roast Turkey

Served with all the season's trimmings

Roast Rib of Beef

Served with seasonal trimmings and Yorkshire pudding

Baked Hake

Topped with Cheddar and served with a tomato and basil sauce and seasonal vegetables

Nut Roast

Served with seasonal trimmings and vegetarian gravy

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding

Served with brandy sauce or custard

Chef's Homemade Apple Crumble

Served with custard or ice cream

Chef's Crème Brûlée

Served with homemade shortbread

Chocolate Ice Cream Trufito with Raspberry Coulis

Followed by Tea and Coffee

£18.95/person 3 courses

£14.95 for 2 courses

Add Cheddar and Stilton with Crackers and a glass of port or mulled wine for only £3.75

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Planning a private Christmas Party?

Our function room makes an ideal place

for your intimate party.

All types of parties catered for - we can also

cater for all budgets.



www.wenvoearms.co.uk

Cabinet to meet in the community

THE Vale Council's Cabinet will be holding its next 'community cabinet' meeting in Wenvoe on Wednesday, November 20, 6pm-8pm in Wenvoe Community Centre.

The meeting is open to the public, who will have the chance to question the Cabinet members at the end of the meeting.

A vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive led the Cabinet to

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D800.

• £2,000: 401928.

• The rollover, which now stands at £10,500, was not won this week.

• £10: 6 8 9 4 5 7 , 138521, 356489, 132633, 465683, 527548, 109707, 288903, 152656, 655038, 287513, 270843, 668198, 532122, 299442, 428312, 821756, 871345, 424924, 895311, 123535, 402844, 646873, 209248, 852553, 412958, 728415, 855462, 910993, 709838, 370714, 907070, 375743,

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

the WENVOE ARMS WENVOE 02920 591129

What's On this December....

Fri 29th Nov to Mon 2nd Dec

WINTER BEER FESTIVAL

Come and try a collection of cask ales from the UK. Plus Sat 30th Nov - Wales vs Australia

Saturday 7th December

CHRISTMAS WITH BUBBLE

Our Michael Bubble tribute night. Reservations only - Various menu options available.

Saturday 14th December

BACK FOR GOOD

Christmas with Take That - Live in the Wenvoe Village Hall, plus support. Tickets on sale at the Wenvoe Arms (includes buffet) £12.50

Saturday 21st December

Jagger & Woody's Xmas Party

Bookings now being taken, various menu options available.

Sunday 22nd December

ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS

Live in the Lounge with bespoke acoustic duo. From 2pm.

Special Offer Voucher

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

from our daily specials board,

Wednesday to Saturday 12-9pm.

Valid only with this voucher 1st to 7th December

Local artists' new exhibition



Ann Townson with one of her paintings.

tors, based around Barry.

For more information, visit www.vogavaleart.org.

Coffee morning for Ty Hapus

THE Vale Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of Ty Hapus on Tuesday, November 26 from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.



Cowbridge at Christmas



MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING A PLEASURE...



An established, traditional firm with a personal, modern approach.

Legal Services for the individual, the family and for business.

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T 01446 772212

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WISHING
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
CLIENTS



A Fabulous Family Day ...
SUNDAY 24th November COWBRIDGE
Chamber of Trade is pleased to present...

Their Famous Reindeer Parade & Celebrity Light Switch On with RUTH WIGNALL with LUCY and RHODRI OWEN

10.00am Participating shops open in the town, live music from RAF St Athan Brass Band plus local bands and choirs and entertainment including a fun fair in the town all day

11.30am Children who wish to join parade, meet at United Free Church in nativity fancy dress

12 noon Reindeer Parade down the main high street

2.00pm Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall

4.45pm Ruth Wignall, with Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen, will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade

www.cowbridgeguide.co.uk



The Glamorgan GEM is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event



HERE may be people out there who have already sorted their Christmas shopping, but the majority are just clicking into gear, as the realisation that the big day is less than six weeks away finally hits home.

So many decisions to make – about presents for nearest and dearest (as well as for not-so-near and not-so-dear), about what food to get in for the festive season and, of course, where to go to get that shopping done.

Cowbridge is one of the first options to spring to mind – and it is not just because of the publicity generated by the highly-successful reindeer parade (much

imitated but never equalled!)

The fact is, Cowbridge has become a popular Christmas shopping destination because it has – in modern jargon – its own Unique Selling Point (USP). To put it simply, shopping in the town is relaxing – a virtue that can't be underestimated.

Consider the pitfalls of charging off to the big city or a retail park where you can easily get hot and bothered, lose a bit of perspective, and come home with impulse buys that make you wonder what possessed you to hand over your cash.

The big retailers, of course, encourage that combination of enthusiasm and panic that can lead you to overspend and regret it later. The atmosphere is cranked up and you become part of a fevered crowd, running around like headless chickens.

Store after store browbeats the shopper with Christmas images, Christmas music and marketing expertise designed to make you feel that your festive season will be incomplete without whatever is on (supposedly) 'special offer' in whichever store you enter.

Very few people enjoy it, so the pressure to get all that shopping done in one go increases, and further rash purchases can be made.

A more measured approach can lead to better decisions. You

by PHILIP IRWIN

times hidden away. They have more retail gems – once again run by local people who have a real commitment and enthusiasm for their business.

'Passionate' is one of the all-purpose buzz words at the moment. Interviewees are encouraged to say they are passionate about whatever job they are trying for. "I'm pas-

sionate about distribution logistics!"

"I'm passionate about corporate branding" or "I'm passionate about chemical toilets".

Well, for Cowbridge retailers, many of whom have travelled far and wide to source their product range, you will find genuine passion for their goods!

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 25

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Cowbridge at Christmas



**CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 24**

What's more, you can make it a really enjoyable day by combining the trip with lunch, or an evening meal, because the town caters for all types of dining.

You'll also find plenty of chefs who are (yes!) 'passionate about cooking', because with the number of options you find in the town, you can't survive by serving up half-hearted plates of food.

The town's reputation means that it attracts new entrepreneurs, all eager to add to the mix in the town.

One new business that has just arrived is L'Ariosto's – which has opened in Eastgate, in the premises once occupied by iconic Cowbridge brasserie, Basil's.

The manager, Salvatore Vara, told The GEM that L'Ariosto's would be a typical Italian trattoria, serving food in the Calabrian style.

He said: "All our staff are Italian, from the Calabria region, and we already run two restaurants in Port Talbot and Penhow, near Chepstow."

He stressed, however,

that it is not a chain, as each restaurant has its own menu, developed by the chef in charge.

He said: "Calabrian food is more spicy than some regions in Italy, but we will be serving, pasta dishes, steak, chicken and pizzas to satisfy all palates."

Another new business in the town is in Willow Walk, where Claire Donovan has opened Beagles Country Store.

She said: "My inspiration was the 'Country Stores of America' chain, and I wanted to create a one-stop store that offers traditional products – all made in the UK whenever possible."

"We are agents for the Really Wild clothing company, as worn by the Duchess of Cambridge, and also Holland Cooper, who dress the cast of *Made in Chelsea*."

Why had she chosen to open in Cowbridge? Claire said: "Because we live locally, in Penmark, and wanted to protect the natural heritage of the area.

"We are negotiating with local suppliers to stock more goods, and we would welcome any feedback from cus-



Another example of the variety of shops to be found in Cowbridge is La Mercerie, on Penny Lane, which is celebrating its recent award as runner-up in the 'Best independent yarn shop in Wales'.

tomers who would like to suggest any items that we should be stocking."

Natalie Davies at Daisy and Jack's Children's Emporium in the High Street – a 'one-stop shop' for children's items – has been open for 12 months, and she is a huge fan of Cowbridge.

She told The GEM: "I do all my own Christmas shopping in the town, because there are so many good shops."

She added: "We cater for all types of purchases, from pocket money presents and stocking fillers to traditional wooden toys. We are also the local supplier for Microscooters."

Visitors to Cowbridge will find that it changes, with new businesses opening, but still stays the same, when it comes to retaining its character.

Certainly, the arrival of Waitrose has added to the options available for

Christmas shoppers, with customers travelling from Porthcawl and Bridgend to see what the town can offer.

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM: "Cowbridge has a unique mix of niche market shops, all offering a very wide selection of gifts and products.

"It's the ideal place to do your Christmas shopping."

FINDING THE 'COW' IN COWBRIDGE!

HAVE you spotted the baby cow yet in Old Hall Gardens, peeping out from its safe pen?

People are often puzzled as to why the English name for this town is 'Cowbridge', yet in Welsh it is 'Stone Bridge' (Y Bont Faen), and no-one really knows the answer.

We do know that cows have always played a prominent role in the town, even though they no longer, or rarely, appear in the cattle market.

Cowbridge could well be the 'Bomium' or 'bovium' named in Roman times along the road from Caerleon to Neath.

Important Roman finds have been excavated along High Street, and the Latin for cow is 'bos (bovis)'.

The grammar school magazine, which ran for generations, was called 'The

Bovian'.

Way back in the 13th century, the town was referred to as 'Cubrigg', and 'Choubrige' and there was a little bridge at the western end, up near the Darren and

Llwynheilig, which helped drain flooding fields, and which was named 'Pont y fywch' (bridge of the cow).

By the fifteenth century, there was written reference to the town as 'Y Bonfaen', and eighteenth century documents named the main bridge over the

river Thaw 'the great stone bridge'.

Whatever the origins of its name, Cowbridge still plays a huge part of the farming community of this rural Vale.

Long may we see cows and sheep in the surrounding fields, and tractors negotiating High Street traffic.

Now a small cow has established itself within the very heart of the town. See if you can find it!

Betty Alden

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Cowbridge at Christmas



Santa and his reindeer are back in Cowbridge!

RIGHT:

Santa and his reindeer will be returning to Cowbridge on November 24 – plenty of time to get your Christmas list written and decide whether you've been naughty or nice this year!

NOVEMBER 24 is the date for Cowbridge's annual Christmas curtain-raiser, when Santa comes to town for the reindeer parade!

It is an event that was pioneered by the town's chamber of trade and, over the years, it has retained its magic and has gone from strength to strength.

In fact, as the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM, there is no reason to mess with a formula that clearly works.

As a result, the main road through the town, from Westgate through to Eastgate, will be closed from 12 noon to 1pm to allow the reindeer parade to make its leisurely way from the west end of the town to the town hall.

A stage will be set up outside the town hall and there will be live entertainment there, starting at 11.30am. Mr John said: "It is best to get to the town soon after 11am to get a good spot for the parade. We hope that as many shops as possible



will be open, as this has proved to be the ideal way to welcome Christmas."

The event is paid for by the chamber of trade, although the help of local voluntary organisations is crucial.

Mr John said: "The chamber of trade sees this event as a chance to give something back to the community, and to thank people for their support throughout the year."

The tried and tested formula will be very similar to last year. A fair will be going on all day in Arthur John's car park, and it is always a magnet for children.

There will be extra parking at the western entrance to the town, at Llwynheg Farm.

The reindeer parade itself, with Santa riding his sleigh, pulled by a team of reindeer and accompanied by his elves, will start at 12 noon.

After the parade, Santa will be in his grotto and will be delighted to welcome young visitors. Entertainment on the stage will continue between 11.30am and 1.30pm.

The on-stage entertainment takes a break until around 4.30pm, but returns in time for the afternoon's big finish, when the town's Christmas lights are switched on.

This year the ceremony will involve rival TV companies coming together; The BBC's Rhodri and Lucy Owen will be joined by ITV's Ruth Wignall for the switch-on, at around 5.15pm.

One new feature this year is the introduction of a photography competition, with two categories. Alun John said: "We are inviting amateur photographers to send us a picture of the day, and there will be a prize of a Christmas hamper for the best one.

"Also, there is a prize for the best photo sent to us by a child under the age of 10."

Entries for the photo competition should be posted on either The GEM Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GlamorganGEM> or on

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Rugby legend JPR pulls pint of his own beer!



During his legendary playing career, JPR Williams was most closely identified with Bridgend RFC, and then London Welsh. However, post-retirement he regularly pops in to the Vale of Glamorgan pub in Cowbridge High Street – where he has been awarded another honour – a beer named after him! It is described as a hoppy pale ale and at 4.7 ABV it has been specially brewed to suit his pallet by a micro brewery, Grey Trees Brewery at Aberaman.

GEM photographer Mike Wilcock dropped into the pub to see JPR pull the first pint of 'JPR', under the guidance of the landlord, James Fletcher. James told The GEM: "JPR pulled that first pint on a Monday, and by the Tuesday it had sold out. I'm waiting to hear from the brewery about when fresh supplies will be available."



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Cowbridge at Christmas



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MEET THE NEW STARS OF STELLA!

Cowbridge hairdressers will feature in TV drama

A COWBRIDGE hairdressers is waiting with bated breath for the new year, when it will feature in the popular Sky One comedy-drama, *Stella*.

Over the last six months, Cowbridge residents have got used to seeing arc lights outside Fich and Ramous, while the six or seven articulated lorries that act as the production company's base for the day have often been parked in the livestock market.

Claire Collins of Fich and Ramous told The GEM that Ruth Jones' production company, which makes *Stella*, had approached them early this year.

She told The GEM: "They keep the storyline quite secret, but it involves a new hairdressing salon opening



Fich and Ramous staff were asked to be extras in the TV show.
(Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

in Stella's town.

"We do know that James Thornton, who used to be in Emmerdale, and who is married to Gavin and Stacey star Joanna Page, is the boss of this new salon.

Is he a love interest? Or a villain? Or both? Fich and Ramous staff probably know, but Claire is not telling.

She said: "We do know that at some point

there is an awards night for the hairdressing businesses, because our staff were asked along to be extras."

In fact, when *Stella* airs in January, Fich and Ramous staff will be bustling around in the background, tending to the needs of customers while the actors do the talking!"

Claire said that filming took place once a month from April to

October, on a Monday which is the salon's day off. Extra filming also took place on some Sundays.

There were a few extra perks for the Fich and Ramous staff. Claire, husband Lance and the staff were invited to the BAFTA Cymru awards night in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay – a real red carpet moment!

CHOIR OPENS TREE FESTIVAL

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir (CMVC) will be opening the annual Cowbridge Christmas Tree Festival with a concert at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church on Friday, November 22.

Performing with the choir will be harpist Megan Morris, from Llanblethian. Megan is currently studying music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The interior of Holy Cross Church should be a sight to behold, as it will be adorned with beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

Tickets (£7.50) can be obtained from: Sorrentos, Cowbridge, or Holy Cross Church office, Church Street, Cowbridge, or by contacting Mr Frank Maynard on 01446 772454. Doors will open to the public at 7pm.

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Cowbridge choir honour Springbok No 9 legend Joost

A COWBRIDGE choir were centre stage when Springboks legendary scrum half, Joost Van der Westhuizen, was honoured at a special dinner held at Cardiff Arms Park.

The 42-year-old is battling motor neurone disease and the organiser of the function, former Welsh and British Lion scrum half Brynmor Williams, had brought together many famous names from the rugby world to pay tribute.

Joost won 89 caps for his country between 1993 and 2003, and he spoke movingly to the guests from his wheelchair about his respect and affection for Wales and for Welsh rugby.

The Cowbridge choir, Cor Meibion y Machlud, were invited with others to entertain the 500-strong gathering, who were all contributing to this event to raise funds for the South African's charity foundation, J9.

The chairman of the choir, Terry Williams, said: "We were proud to be part of such a prestigious event. We were really pleased to contribute in some small way to honour and celebrate the career of such a world class player."

The choir, accompanied by Carole Phillips,



Conductor Eifion Davies and Roger Bradshaw and Charles Middleton relaxing before the choir took to the stage, and BELOW: The guest of honour (right).



kicked off with a lively rendition of the South African song 'Siyahamba' sung in turn in Zulu, Welsh and English, before returning to their more traditional Welsh numbers of 'Gwahoddid' etc.

The set was rounded off by Max Boyce's 'Hymns and Arias' with verses especially compiled for the evening by the choir's conductor, Eifion Davies. These received by an enthusiastic audience who joined in with the choruses.

At the evening's conclusion, the choir also led the singing of the two anthems, 'South Africa' and 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

The next local appearance of the choir will be at the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge on Thursday, November 21.

RICHARD KENNARD

Cadets were busy on Remembrance Sunday



ABOVE: Cadets paraded at St Athan (above) and Llantwit Major.

MP backs strong action against payday lenders

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has backed the Charter to stop payday loan rip-offs.

The Charter calls for tougher regulation of payday lenders and is supported by some of Britain's biggest debt, consumer and anti-poverty organisations – including Which?, Citizens Advice, StepChange Debt Charity, Church Action on Poverty, and the Centre for Responsible Credit.

MPs from all parties and campaigners are urging the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to back the Charter and introduce tougher regulation of payday lenders. Over 70 MPs and Peers have backed the Charter and members of the public can add their support at change.org/paydayloancharter.

Madeleine Moon said: "I'd encourage people to add their voice to the growing calls for tougher regulation of payday lenders, by signing the Charter at change.org/paydayloancharter."



WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Phil Davies – crown raise oak to 4m Sycamore House, removing secondary pen-Llancaidlle – rear single dubious branches and 3-storey garden room 4m reduction to mid-extension.
Mr Mark Jenna – 8 Le Mr Shore – Mwnddans, Sor Hill, Peterston St Nicholas – shorten super Ely – lightly lower lateral branches by

3-4m to yew.
Mr and Mrs Robert Harmer – Springfield, Graig Penllyn – construction of new three-bed detached house with driveway in garden of existing residential property.

Mr and Mrs McNally – Maes Isaf, Wick – change of use of land to residential garden and erection of a garage/store.

Mr S Carey – 14 Manorbier Close, Dinas Powys – new two-storey dwelling house to land to side of 14 Manorbier Close.

Mr Stewart Norton – Duchy Quarry, Heol y Stepsau, Nr St Brides

Shaun Whyman – Pavement outside Trehill Cottage, St Nicholas

– broadband

cabinet within highway, proposed dwelling to replace an existing ruined and dilapidated dwelling known as Old Quarry, Gileston.

Mr Gareth Price – 14a Crescent Close, Cowbridge – fell two ash trees.

Mrs E Davies – Church Cottage, Aberthin Lane, Aberthin – demolition of Church Cottage and development of two three-bed houses and one four-bed house.

Mr Gareth Thomas – Manor Cottage, St Hilary – replacement of single glazed panes with double glazed sealed wooden frames.

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The walking dead are on the prowl in Porthcawl!

PHOTOGRAPH by RANDELL JOHN



WHEN local photographer Randell John heard that a 'zombie walk' was being held in Porthcawl, curiosity got the better of him and he went along to see if there would be any good costumes and make up.

He wasn't prepared for the

lengths that the group would go to be realistic – and neither were we at The GEM! To be perfectly honest, we have had to hold back some of Randell's best shots, because the gory make-up was just too realistic.

However, they can be seen on Randell's website at www.Randell.JohnPhotography.co.uk

For the record, the group's Facebook page revealed that they raised almost £600 for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice from well-wishers.

How many prospective donors raced away in the opposite direction is unknown!



Porthcawl show features Broadway favourites



Call for town council to take over old police station

THE shadow Welsh culture, heritage and tourism minister Suzy Davies is backing attempts to retain the old police station in Porthcawl for community use.

The Conservative group on Porthcawl Town Council has taken the initiative in calling for the town council to consider taking over the building which currently houses the town museum and the Porthcawl Art Society.

Former group leader Coun David Deere wrote a letter to the council calling on them to ask owners BCBC to defer the sale of the building until the town council had had time to look into the feasibility of purchasing the building.

He said: "I am delighted that the town council has set up a working group drawn from different parties to

look at the options and implications of purchasing this building.

"It will depend on how much BCBC wants but this is a Grade 2 listed building so there will be limitations on what can be done with it.

"It would be ideal as offices for the town council – we could move into what was the Tourist Information Office. There may also be room for a council chamber."

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, welcomed this move.

"This building is crucial to the community at Porthcawl," she said. "It would be a tragedy if it were to go, especially as the town has just lost the Rest Home, which various organisations had used.

"I met Chris and David Swinden from the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society on Friday and toured the building.

"They could consider signing it over for a peppercorn price in exchange for being released from paying for future repairs. I know that they sold the old Maesteg UDC offices to the town council there for £1, so a precedent has been set."

"They have a very extensive archive of photographs, documents, costumes and artefacts which is in storage on the first floor. They have received no notice from BCBC and there is no way that they can move the museum lock, stock and barrel to another venue – assuming that one were available."

"I hope that BCBC does not dismiss this solution. This building could be acquired either by the town council or by a trust comprised of local organisations.

"They would be eligible for capital grants which BCBC cannot access to put the building into a good state of repair, which would relieve BCBC of the burden of having to repair this former Victorian police station.

"They could consider signing it over for a peppercorn price in exchange for being released from paying for future repairs. I know that they sold the old Maesteg UDC offices to the town council there for £1, so a precedent has been set."

St Bride's Major news

THERE will be a parish Christmas fair at the church hall, 10am on November 23.

There will be numerous stalls including tombola, bottles, crafts, jewellery, paintings, Christmas cards and mulled wine and mince pies.

Contact number for local news 01656 665527 or email: emailchristina.davison123@btinternet.com.

MP's

surgery

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP will be holding a surgery at the Braich y Cymmer Hotel, Pontyryhyl, between 2pm and 3pm on Friday, November 15.

Read your GEM online
bridgend-today.co.uk

SIMPLY BROADWAY, on Saturday, November 30, in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl at 7.30pm is the fifth anniversary show featuring the 40 voices of the Broadway Chorus in an exciting and lively evening of much loved music.

The RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, successful at this year's Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, is also taking part, and makes a welcome return to Porthcawl to share the stage for this popular show for all the family.

The Sarah Burnell School of Dance from Pencoed, which recently gained several national titles at the All England Dance Championships in London, will provide colourful interludes.

The chorus is part of Porthcawl Amateur

Operatic and Dramatic Society, which will soon start rehearsals for its spring time show, *The Producers*.

Simply Broadway presents music from Broadway and the West End, including well-known shows such as *Wicked*, *Sister Act*, *Matilda*, *Polar Express*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Lion King*.

There are also some early festive favourites to coincide with Porthcawl's Christmas lights being switched on.

Last year's sell-out show proved to be as popular as ever so don't delay in getting your tickets, available on the ticket hotline : 01656 788148 or the Pavilion box office, 01656 815995. Tickets are £9 and £11.

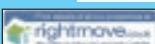
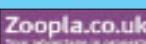
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£292,500



DANIEL STREET, BARRY
Two double bedroomed mid terraced, lounge/dining room, kitchen and conservatory, enclosed rear garden, laid to lawn. Upvc double glazing and GCH. ER-D.
£99,950



EVANS STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, in need of complete modernisation, no chain, ideal for a builder.
Guide Price £59,000



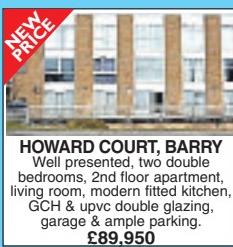
OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY
Elevated spacious, traditional dwelling, through living room, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs shower room, 1st floor bathroom, three bedrooms. ER-D.
£149,950



OXFORD STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, living room/diner, three bedrooms (attic conversion), larger than average garden, backing onto Porthkerry Park, solid oak flooring, approved planning consent for granny annexe.
£187,500



FFORDD GWYNEDD, BARRY
Modern semi detached, corner position, spacious plot, room to extend (subject to usual planning), two bedrooms, lounge, level garden, driveway to side. ER-D.
£139,950



HOWARD COURT, BARRY
Well presented, two double bedrooms, 2nd floor apartment, living room, modern fitted kitchen, GCH & upvc double glazing, garage & ample parking.
£89,950



MAIN STREET, BARRY
Traditional, through living room, kitchen, two bedrooms leading to third, in need of some modernisation, partial gas central heating, no chain. ER-D.
£79,950



GREENACRES, BARRY
Deceptively spacious dwelling accessible via private drive. Living room, kitchen/dining, sitting room, study, 4 bedrooms. Upvc double glazing throughout. ER-E.
£389,950



GILBERT STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, forecourted traditional, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, family bathroom, mature enclosed rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£89,950



BROOK STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, through living room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, attic area via dropped down ladder, upvc dg - GCH via combi, no chain ER-D.
£92,500



LOWER PYKE STREET, BARRY
Extended mid terrace, forecourted front, through 24ft living room, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, wc cloak & shower room, three bedrooms, additional 1st floor wc cloak. ER-D.
£104,950



THE MEWS, BELEVEDERE CRESCENT, BARRY
Modern end of terraced, driveway to front, living room, kitchen, GCH via combi boiler, town centre location, no chain. ER-C.
£94,950



MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY
Spacious detached bungalow, maintenance free, three bedrooms, family bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast - integrated appliances, ample parking. ER-D.
£219,950



PARK AVENUE, BARRY
Well presented, sea views, mid terraced traditional, elevated Victorian dwelling, three double bedrooms, through living room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. ER-E.
£179,999



ROMILLY COURT, BARRY
Well presented, two bedroomed, open plan kitchen/diner, GCH via combi, upvc double glazing, parking to front, views over Bristol Channel, no chain. ER-C.
£84,950



CHURCHFIELDS, BARRY
Extended semi detached, well presented, five bedrooms, living room, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast, utility room/garage, enclosed rear garden, viewing essential. ER-C.
£189,950



BENECROFTE, RHOOSHE
Three bedrooms, modern detached, well presented, wc cloak, living room, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen, sitting room (converted garage), enclosed rear garden. ER-D.
£209,950



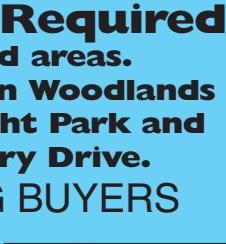
ST BRIDES WAY, BARRY
Two bedrooms, modern semi detached, living room, conservatory, level laid to lawn garden, longer than average driveway providing parking. ER-D.
£104,950



CWLWM CARIAD, BARRY
Four bedrooms, living room, 2013 fitted kitchen/diner, utility room, family bathroom, level rear garden, garage, no chain, cde sae position. ER-D.
£224,950



ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY
End of link bungalow, two bedrooms, far reaching sea views from Rom. Park, covered balcony, garden to side, designated parking, viewing highly recommended.
£148,500



DRYDEN TERRACE, BARRY
Extended semi detached, far reaching sea views, two double bedrooms, two sitting rooms, two bathrooms, front, side & rear Gardens, driveway, upvc dg - GCH. ER-D.
£104,500



COURT ROAD, BARRY
Traditional mid terraced, spacious living, two reception rooms, four bedrooms, no chain, in need of some updating, walking distance to town centre. ER-E.
£99,950



GEORGES ROW, DINAS POWYS
End of terraced, traditional, living room, ground floor bathroom, 15ft kitchen/breakfast, three bedrooms, approx 150ft rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£159,950



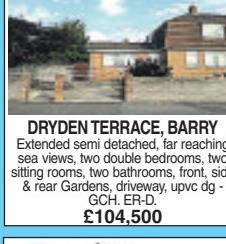
BELL STREET, BARRY
Two bedroomed, traditional mid terraced, living/dining room, kitchen, wc cloakroom, first floor family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER-E.
£106,950



BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY
Well presented, two bedrooms, ground floor apartment, living room overlooking front, fitted kitchen, GCH via combi, upvc throughout, door entry security system.
£89,999



WINDSOR ROAD, BARRY
Five bedrooms, living room, dining room, original features throughout, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, wc cloak, West End location. ER-E.
£199,950



TREM Y DON, BARRY
Spacious corner position, extended detached, four bedrooms, living room, dining room, two conservatories, sunken pool, summerhouse housing, hot tub and bar, ample parking. ER-E.
£329,950



WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Stunning mid linked traditional, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, original block flooring, enclosed level rear garden, decked sun terrace, drive allowing parking, close to shops, schools and public transport, viewing essential. ER-D.
£187,500



EDWARD STREET, BARRY
Detached bungalow, living room, three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, driveway/garage, enclosed rear garden, no chain, price for quick sale.
£124,950



HILARY RISE, BARRY
Very well presented, modern semi detached, three bedrooms, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, side, front & rear gardens, 2012 upvc double glazing. ER-D.
£115,000



SOUTH ROAD, SULLY
Detached house, spacious living, four bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, sitting room, utility room, longer than average driveway, garage, no chain, channel views from first floor.
£334,950



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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 202983
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1107308
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

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- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £86.99 per week including service charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1105447
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £92.23 per week including service charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 976912
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £92.23 per week including service charges

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Applicants must demonstrate a need for a minimum of two bedrooms
H4U Reference 1030995
Suitable for applicants aged over 60 (55 with medical need) Single applicants will not be considered

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme Manager

Rent £108.56 per week

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 368397
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £71.17 per week including service charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 2190441
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £89.11 per week including service charges

LAUGHARNE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 214534
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £98.07 per week including water charges

MAGELLAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 876912
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden
- Parking

Rent £82.51 per week including service charges

MILTON ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 216647
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.14 per week including water charges

NORWOOD CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 988202
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden
- Parking

Rent £86.66 per week including service charges

OAK COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 7089698
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)

- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Economy 7 heating
- Double-glazing
- Manager and alarm

Rent £83.62 per week

OGMORE PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 218735
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £90.07 per week including water charges

PHILLIPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 983408
Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (steps no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking/garden

Rent £94.75 per week including service charges

RHUDDLAN WAY, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 1061989
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.84 per week

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Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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WAVERLEY COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 983408
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets

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- First floor (no lift)
- Electric storage heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

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**Windmill Close, Wick**

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D56

**Beach Road, Marcross**

3 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Coastal Location

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D64

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Meadowcroft, Rhoose
D68 - £395 pcm
One Bedroom, Ground Floor,
Electric Heating

Sycamore Avenue, St Athan
C69 - £495 pcm
Two Bedroom, Front, Side and
Rear Gardens, Shower

High Street, Barry
E49 - £495 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Central
Location, Unfurnished

Pinewood Square, St Athan
D59 - £500 pcm
Two Bedrooms, Shower,
Front & Rear Gardens

Gerddi Margaret, Barry
B81 - £525 pcm
First Floor Apartment,
Two Bedrooms, Shower

Ash Lane, St Athan
F38 - £525 pcm
Two Bedrooms, Kitchen Diner,
Large Garden

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
C73 - £550 pcm
Two Bedrooms,
Oven & Hob, Rear Garden

Heol Cilffrydd, Barry
B85 - £550 pcm
First Floor Apartment, Two
Bedrooms, Equipped Kitchen

Smeaton Close, Rhoose
C72 - £575pcm
2 Bedroom, W/c shower, GCH

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
C73 - £575 pcm
Two Bedrooms,
Semi detached, Garage

Barry Road, Barry
F33 - £575 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Large Kitchen,
Gas CH & Upvc DG

Willowbrook Gardens,
St Mellons, Cardiff
C80 - £595 pcm
Two Bedrooms, En Suite,
Off Road Parking

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
D68 - £675 pcm
Three Bedrooms, 2 Recepts &
Conservatory, Garage

Willowbrook Gardens,
St Mellons, Cardiff
C77 - £650 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/diner
Enclosed garden

Woodlands Road, Barry
E49 - £750 pcm
Four Bedrooms, Two Reception
Rooms, Refurbished

Bron Awelon, Barry
D61 - £725 pcm
West End Location, Three/Four
bedrooms, Garage and Driveway

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C80



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3 Bedrooms, No Stamp Duty,
No Chain

£75,950

E54



Byron Court, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
First Floor Retirement Flat
Scheme Manager

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C78



Elm Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
No Chain

£94,950

E50



Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Generous Driveway
No Chain

£99,950

E53



Seys Court, Llantwit Major
Three Bedrooms
Gas Combi Boiler
No Chain

£105,000

C70



Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Family Home
62ft Rear Garden

£125,000

D61



Brecon Street, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Combi Boiler

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St Johns View, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Village Location
No Chain

£154,950

D60



**Llantwit Garden Close,
St Athan**
3 Bedrooms, Conservatory
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D59



**Church Meadow, Boerton,
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3 Bedrooms, Well Appointed Kitchen,
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E51



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3 Bedrooms
Garage
Conservatory

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Tennyson Way, Llantwit Major
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Open Outlook Onto fields

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Ty Mawr Gwyn, Flemingston
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Adjoining Open Fields
Granny Annex Option

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Birthdays**HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY**
Ryan Mackeprang
On 15th November 2013

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Adam and Emily
and all the family

XXXX

**Happy 50th Birthday**
William Lucas
'LUC'
on 19th November 2013
With love from
Mam, Jess,
Charlie, Elliot,
Al and the rest
of the family.
XXXX**Birth Announcement**

Congratulations
Sarah and Matty
on the birth of your beautiful daughter
CHLOE MAY
on November 9, 2013 at 3.59am
7lb 15oz
Thank you for our precious gift.
All our love,
Mum, Dad and all the family xxx

Family Notices**DAVIES**
Alan James

Lorraine and her family would like to thank relatives, neighbours and friends for all their kind messages of condolence, donations and attendance at Alan's funeral. Many thanks also to the District Nurses and Marie Curie Nurse who attended to Alan so wonderfully during his illness.

LEADER
Brian

Suddenly on October 31st at his home in St Athan, Brian, son of the late George and Della. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, November 18th, service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

COPE
Margaret Marylyn
(Née Gower)

Passed away peacefully at her home in Cowbridge at 12 noon on Friday, November 8th.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, November 18th at 10.30am followed by interment at the Cardiff and Vale Natural Burial Meadow, St Nicholas, where all are welcome. Dress optional, no flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care or The Donkey Sanctuary c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

REYNOLDS
Mary

Peacefully on October 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Mary, aged 92, of Llantwit Major.

Beloved wife of the late Ronald, mother of Patricia, Michael and son-in-law John. Grandmother of Patrick, Ceri, Sian and Michelle. Great grandmother of Tristen, Erin and Ekaterina.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Saturday November 16, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

JOHNSON
Noel Robert
(Aged 37)

Peacefully on 22 October at the IT Unit of Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Noel, aged 37 of Llandow. Beloved son of Paul and Corrine, much loved brother of Alison and Alexander and uncle.

The family would like to thank all the staff at the IT Unit at Princess of Wales Hospital for their care. Also, thanks to all our family and friends for their support and for all the messages of condolence received at this very sad time.

MARSH
Edna May

Peacefully, Edna, aged 96, passed away at Bellavista Nursing Home after a small stroke on 5th November. Edna, dearly loved mother of Sandra and Brian, mother-in-law to David and Carol, grandmother to Simon and Smanatha, will be sorely missed.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB, until her funeral service at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX on Friday, 22nd November at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations may be made at the service to the Funeral Director, in memory of Edna, to the Alzheimer's Society. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Robert Johnson at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

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Town and Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012****Development that may affect a Conservation Area
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth**

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2013/00976/FUL Erection of two storey rear extension Well Cottage, Llysworney Llysworney
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2013/00988/FUL Rear single storey extension Nant y Glyn, Aberthin, Cowbridge Aberthin
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2013/01008/FUL Proposed new dwelling in garden of Highdene Highdene, Cowbridge Road, St. Nicholas St. Nicholas
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01009/LBC Repairs to walls Dunraven Gardens, Dunraven Park, Southerndown Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01024/LBC Change of use from guest/conference accommodation to residential flat. Associated internal alterations. Re-roofing with change to lead rolls. Two new window openings, flue pipe. Change from external cement render to lime Traherne, Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn Grade II*
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01035/LBC Change of use of new rear extension from Retail usage to Offices, internal alterations, demolition of rear garages and formation of rear car parking area. 29, High Street, Cowbridge Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01037/LBC Demolition and replacement of internal division wall between west and central areas Mount Pleasant Barn, Llangan, Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01052/LBC Replacement of canopy 29, High Street, Cowbridge Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Ardelad Rhestredig	2013/01061/LBC Lath and plaster ceiling reinstatement, painting of facade and front window frames The Flat, 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge Grade II
Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/	Gall manylon eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/
Dated / Dyddiedig: 14 November, 2013	M. Goldsworthy Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Pencoed under-15s seal quarter final spot



Action from the Osprey's Cup encounter between Pencoed under-15s and Tondu under-15s; the former emerged 29-10 winners.
PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK

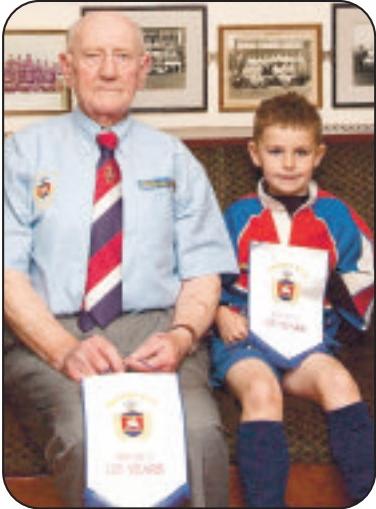
IT was a beautiful sunny day at the Recreation Ground as Pencoed under-15s fought Tondu under-15s for a place in the quarter finals of Ospreys Cup.

With great swerving running from Pencoed and crisp passing, they got through Tondu's defence on several occasions. This play generated tries for captain Tommy Reffell, Josh Raikes and Garwyn Williams.

Tondu managed long periods of pressure on Pencoed's line towards the end of the first half, which Pencoed absorbed before the referee blew to for half-time.

JH

Pencoed RFC is bridging the generational gap!



PENCOED RFC's oldest and youngest are pictured above, as club patron Mervyn Leyshon and mini rugby's Ewan Powell hold the club's 125th anniversary pennant.
PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK

FC Barry welcome youngsters



FC BARRY is an amateur football club that plays in the Vale of Glamorgan football league in south Wales.

We have a senior team in the first division and most of the team has played together for over 30 years.

We are now very much involved in kids football, we run a three tier programme and currently we have youngsters that range from 4 to 7; our first youngsters team is

now taking part in the under-7s mini-league in the Vale of Glamorgan, which focuses on development and enjoyment.

We started the teams around two years ago and are really proud of what the club has achieved and get real enjoyment out of watching the youngsters develop.

We now have over 30 youngsters on our books and we've received a huge amount of support from not only the parents but

also people like Lee Saunders, who co-ordinates mini football in the Vale.

The coaches - Shaun White, Dave Lewis, Geraint Osborne, Spencer Bennett, Paul Lewis and Greg Williams - would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for their continued support; we would also like to thank Matthew Thomas of Asguard Ltd for sponsoring the under-7s kit.

LS

A black Monday for Quarks and Gambits

IT could be considered a bad day at the office when 10 players compete in the East Glamorgan Chess League and eight of them lose, but a closer look at the matches reveals something different.

Just happy to win! Later on in the week, normal service was resumed when the Bosons travelled to Cardiff to take on the Pawns. The Pawns are the weakest of the Cardiff teams in division one but they are still strong on the top boards.

Lee Davis earned a good win on board one against Dave Lewis, Steve Cunliffe and Ken Hannah also won. Rhys Steele and Ashley Davis both drew to give the Bosons a 4-1 win.

This moves them up to second place in the table, one and a half points behind Nelson, who also picked up four points this week.

They, along with the other teams relegated last year, Pentrych and Penarth, and the recently-strengthened North Cardiff Woodpushers, are all fighting for the three promotion spots.

So it was no surprise to see that our boys were all rated an average of 350 points below theirs. We did not give up without a fight but it was left to Sam White to prevent the washout and earn an excellent draw. This half a point was more than anticipated!

On the same night, Penarth travelled to Barry to take on the Gambits in division four.

In this match, we were out-rated on four of the boards so a 4-1 defeat was expected and achieved. I was the only player to score for Barry when, after a solid start, my opponent played an unnecessary exchange of a knight for a rook, and then

exchanged a pawn for a knight to give me a winning advantage. After resigning he had apologised for not giving me a better match; I was

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones
club secretary

Rhoose's Cup run goes on

RHOOSE FC continue to live the dream following this Welsh Cup second round victory against their Welsh League Division One opponents TATA Steel at Jenner Park last Thursday evening.

Heavy pre-match rain provided zip to a perfect Jenner Park surface and in consequence both sides served up some slick, one touch football.

Rhoose however, were not to be over-

awed by their higher placed opponents and went close in the opening exchanges with fine efforts from Drew Fahiyah, Nicky Davison and James Dixon.

At the other end, intelligent and resolute defending from Ollie Dalton and Gareth Pownar, plus an assured, inspired display from veteran Rhoose keeper Barry Niblett, restricted the visitors to mainly long range efforts.

Although Rhoose suffered an injury to stalwart defender David Stephenson, which eventually forced him to withdraw, the Vale side continued to force the pace and their efforts were rewarded on the stroke of halftime following handball on the Port Talbot side's goal line.

Drew Fahiyah converted the resulting penalty to give Rhoose a deserved 1-0 half-

time lead.

The 'ding-dong' battle continued apace in the second half and the home side should have put the game beyond doubt following a rasping 25 yard effort from Joseph Hinds which struck the underside of the crossbar, bounced down onto the goal line and out.

There was also a one on one situation which saw the Rhoose strikers over elaborate and consequently lose the chance with the goal begging!

There followed a nail-biting last few minutes for the Rhoose management, plus a puzzling eight minutes or so of injury time, but in relative terms it has to be said that the Vale side ran out worthy winners.

Rhoose have drawn

Welsh Premier side

Bala Town at home in

the third round to be

played on the weekend

of December 7 at

Jenner Park (kick-off

2pm).

It's a great boost for the Vale side to be playing in Wales' premier cup competition against a team who qualified for Europe last season; and although Rhoose will start as obvious underdogs, as everyone knows - anything can happen in cup football!

AP

LANCARFAN'S Evan Williams, the new Daily Mirror Saturday's Racing Pullout correspondent, saddled *Stormy Island Ahead* to win the HSBC Supports RABI Handicap Chase at Chepstow Racecourse on Wednesday, November 6.

Well ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, the eight-year-old bay gelding won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Merlin's Wish*.

Owner David Williams missed seeing his horse win as he was on holiday. Unfortunately, *Stormy Island Ahead* was not on Evan's list of 10 horses for 'Mirror' readers to follow throughout the season.

BRIAN LEE

Evan lands a Chepstow winner



Mrs Sue Holland (winner) and

Mrs Helena Coombes (runner-up).

nostalgic event with everyone relating tales of their years and terms of office as captains.

An unusually mild October ensured a month of generally well-supported competitions, results are as follows:

October 8 - winner Shirley Lewis - 35 points over 18 holes.

October 15 - winner Linda Hewlett - 20 points over 10 holes.

October 22 - winner

Margaret Codd - 23 points over 10 holes.

October 29 - Despite appalling weather the previous weekend and Monday, the shortened course was in excellent condition and a few ladies played in the Hallowe'en Hags competition. The winner was Linda Hewlett - 18 points over 10 holes.

JK

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MEDAL SUCCESS FOR CADOXTON TAE KWON DO

Pictured are Thea Cunningham, Jake Quigley, Lucia Cunningham, Lucy Newman, Thomas Haysham, Bradley Halford and Matthew Bennett.



CARRYING on from their phenomenal success in the recent world games held in Dublin, the Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do travelled to the Island of Jersey to compete in the WOMAA European championships.

The championships were held in Fort Regent St Helier where over nine countries took part, as well as two teams from Mexico. With five categories available to enter, the Cadoxton school took advantage of this and entered all five categories.

The categories were, point and continuous sparring, traditional forms, weapon forms and synchronised forms.

With only eight competitors from the Cadoxton School competing we came away with 18 gold, eight silver and four bronze medals, making a grand total of 30 medals.

In fact all but one of our students came back to Barry as a European champion; the school now can boast to have seven

European and eight world titleholders training with us.

Club instructor and coach Master Ron Thomas said this year's success is no accident as the students' hard work and dedication to Taekwondo is outstanding: "We now have a nucleus of young, experienced students and competitors to take the school forward with continued success on the local and international circuit and I am sure it will continue for many years."

Thea Cunningham earned a gold in continuous sparring, gold in weapons, silver in traditional patterns and silver in point sparring, while Lucia Cunningham won a gold in traditional patterns, gold in weapons, gold in continuous sparring and silver in point sparring.

Jake Quigley grabbed gold in point sparring, gold in weapons, silver in traditional patterns and bronze in continuous sparring, while Lucy Newman won gold in point sparring and silver in continuous sparring.

Thomas Haysham won a gold in point sparring, gold in continuous sparring and

silver in weapons. Thomas also fought up a category and took gold in both point and continuous sparring categories.

Bradley Halford lost in his own point sparring category, but had the opportunity to compete in the men's section where he took first place and the gold medal; he also took gold in continuous sparring, silver in traditional patterns and bronze in the weapons, while Jamie Halford won bronze in point sparring.

Matthew Bennett earned a gold in traditional patterns, gold in weapons, silver in point sparring and silver in continuous sparring, and teamed up with Bradley Halford to enter the synchronised pattern; with an outstanding performance, they took first place and a gold medal each.

Master Thomas would like to thank all the family's and supports of the school for their support and fundraising efforts, without whom we could not have achieved our phenomenal success.

RT

Third place for the Cowbridge under-8s

COWBRIDGE under-8s took a squad of 12 players to the Lexus Tournament in Bristol in glorious autumn sunshine and gave an excellent account of themselves, achieving third place.

The team narrowly lost their first match against Plymstock 8 tries to 7, despite their superb attacking play, with Osian Bruce (4 tries) and Sam Sheppard (2) providing a master-class in running rugby.

James Lord also scored after an incisive run; however the team's defensive errors cost them dear, which meant they lost a match they should have won.

In the second match against Swindon the boys started strongly, with two tries coming from the signature switch move, firstly from Osian and then from Joe Davies who was running in support.

Swindon quickly responded but Cowbridge then had a purple patch, with five unanswered tries before halftime.

Sam Sheppard scored two from his clever dummy runs, followed by Henry Pugh who scored after picking up the ball after a spill by

the opposition.

James Collingridge made a superb run to score as did Joe Davies who sprinted to the corner. The victory was put beyond doubt in the second half by a powerful run from Harry New and a score by Ioan Phillips showing good support play. Final score 9-4 to Cowbridge.

The team then needed to beat Winchester to get to the final. Despite conceding the first try

Cowbridge kept in sight, with a tries coming from Sam Jackson after a period of pressure and Osian from a superlative run.

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was to no avail as Winchester held on to win 5-4.

Cowbridge then moved into the third place play-off against Exeter Chiefs and started superbly, with a try by Joe Arentsen from the kick off, followed by a try apiece from James Lord and Ned Rees who were on hand to score after strong attacking play by the team.

Henry Whitehouse then scored two tries, including a magnificent run from behind his own try line. Two determined scores by Ned Rees and a mellifluous run from Joe Arentsen ensured an 8-7 victory.

The commendable third place left the team and coaches reflecting on what might have been but nonetheless determined to improve in the next tournament.

KD

Tim's 25-1 shocker

HAWKHILL, a 25-1 chance, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, landed the 2000 Celebratory Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park last week.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, the seven-year-old bay gelding made all the running and drew clear two hurdles from home to score by six lengths from Valid Reason.

A winner of four races on the flat, Hawkhill was winning for the 10th time.

At Doncaster last Saturday, Merthyr's David Probert took the BetFred Mobile E/E.B.F. Stallions Gillies Fillies' Stakes on Andrew Balding's Miss Cap Estel who also was a 25-1 outsider.

BRIAN LEE

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New Mazda crossover is the finished article

by Tim Saunders

AIR conditioning is a standard luxury on most vehicles these days, but in my experience these systems can be a little slow in delivering a comfortable temperature.

Not so in the Mazda CX-5. Winter is fast approaching and during these challenging cold spells we all demand vehicles that warm up immediately.

The Mazda CX-5 seems to almost have instant heat. Whack up the air conditioning dial to the hottest point and the interior warms up incredibly quickly. The same is true in the summer when temperatures need to be swiftly brought down. It's impressive.

This was just one of the features of this permanent four wheel drive crossover (sport utility vehicle built on a car platform), which is Mazda's answer to the Nissan Qashqai. I have driven the Qashqai and clearly Mazda has scrutinized it.

They've done a good job helped by the striking Stormy Blue Mica finish of the test model. I actually prefer the CX-5's nose, which is more purposeful and sporty and overall it seems a more appealing package.

The one thing it lacks though and I think would be a very welcome addition, would be the front to back panoramic glass roof that ensures a high amount of light makes its way into the Qashqai.

Rhoose under-15s tame the Park Lions

RHOOSE under-15s started this game against Park Lions with a high tempo.

They soon took the lead when Jay Coles calmly slotted the ball into the top corner, having been found in space with an excellent cross from Josh Brown.

This settled the Rhoose team who played some intricate free-flowing football with Harry Morgan-Grant and Daniel Cope using the channels well.

Rhoose doubled their lead when Josh Morgan danced his way through a number of challenges before picking his spot.

Dylan White was outstanding in defence and

marshalled the back four. Declan Jenkins and Lee Bartlett worked tirelessly throughout the game and linked up well with Joshua Caveill and Patrick O'Carroll.

Daniel Ahearn and Joe Hopkins were called on to make several challenges and Tom Hubbard pushed forward to link up with the strikers.

Rhoose secured the victory when keeper Matt Cottingham used the wind to drive a long ball over the Park Lions defence into the path of Josh Morgan, who kept his composure and found the back of the net.

MB

Cowbridge under-10s claim tournament!

COWBRIDGE under-10s travelled to Bristol for the Lexus South West regional tournament, hoping they could show their potential on a wider stage.

The clubs represented in the tournament were Cowbridge, Winchester, Swindon, Clevedon, Exeter, Cheltenham, Plymstock (Plymouth) and Newbury. These were split into two groups with Cowbridge in Pool B with Cheltenham, Plymstock and Swindon.

Cowbridge's first game was against Plymstock and this proved to be a tight game. The game, played over two six-minute halves, proved to be a tense opening to the pool.

A Ruben Davies try was the only score of the first half as Cowbridge defended with real determination, although their usually precise handling game deserted them amid early tournament nerves.

The second half was equally tight but a Harry Treharne try doubled Cowbridge's lead and they held this until the end of the game.

Cowbridge's second game was against Cheltenham and this proved to be a physically demanding game for the Cowbridge boys.

An early Cheltenham try was cancelled out by a Ruben Davies try, but increasingly Cowbridge were coming off second best in the contact area.

As the game wore on

this dominance allowed Cheltenham to score three tries, condemning Cowbridge to a 4-1 defeat.

To progress in the

tournament Cowbridge's last pool game was a must-win game and they duly obliged with a five star performance.

Cowbridge completely

outclassed Swindon

and ran in eight tries

with Ruben Davies col-

lecting five of them,

stably pull it back and forth. These vehicles always come into their own when nappy changes are required. Not only is the cavernous boot ideal for a little one to lie down in but the raised height means that there's no awkward bending.

What sets the CX-5 apart from the competition is the fact that the rear seats can be so easily dropped for large loads. As you can see in the video it is simply a matter of pulling a lever on either side of the inside of the boot for the seats to quickly drop.

The CX-5 is the first vehicle to be produced by Mazda with no input from Ford. A frightening prospect when you think that Ford and Mazda worked together between 1979 and 2010 and that between them they designed some fabulous vehicles.

As a former Xedos 6 owner, I understandably have high expectations of Mazdas and for me the Mazda has been pretty successful. My old Xedos loved its juice and I have been surprised at how far it is possible to drive the CX-5 on so little fuel, helped in part by i-stop, which intelligently cuts the engine when it has been idling too long for its liking.

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CHAMPIONS!

defeat a side who had been unbeaten in the tournament.

To do that a more physical effort was required and, driven on from support from other Cowbridge age groups in the tournament, the team responded by producing a magnificent performance.

The tackling and competing for the ball was in stark contrast to the first game as big boys were brought to ground quickly and Cheltenham were not allowed the space to get their runners into action.

In contrast the Cowbridge team, through great teamwork, were able to launch their

club's trophy cabinet.

The coaches cannot express adequately how proud they were of all the boys and their commitment and efforts on the day. They would also like to thank all the boy's parents for their support on the day as without this these days wouldn't be possible.

Lexus Tournament squad: Ruben Davies (c), Ifor Rees, Rhidian Williams, Robbie Brown, Finlay Brace, Finlay Sullivan, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Akka Guwy, Harry Treharne, Steffan Evans, Alfie Rees, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Tom Brennan and Will Harris. MF

Atoms receive mauling!

THE Atoms faced Pentrych, one of the better sides in the matrix; we expected a very hard game and we certainly got it.

Like the Atoms, they have a very large squad and three 20 minute sessions were played. For the first third Atoms were a bit slow to the breakdown and really didn't get into it until they had gone four tries down; they showed what they're capable of but only in short phases.

They were rewarded by a well-worked try starting out wide, then through the middle into the hands of our forwards and finished by Couch.

After conceding

another two tries, another well-worked team try was finished off by Connor. The boys were dropping like flies on both sides due to the ferocity and pace of the game.

Petrych answered again and so did the Atoms, through Rory. It was a period of back and forth with more tries from Petrych; then the

Atoms scored two more tries, both finished off by Daf. Our last try was a power play from big Fin but Petrych had the last say.

Final score Petrych 11 tries, Atoms 6 tries.

Squad: Dylan, Jamie, Jack L, Iestyn E, Iestyn N, Rory, Owen, Couch, Rhys, Connor, Ethan, Jack N, Daf, Fin, Cai, Jack R.

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, November 5:

1st Ann Macdougall & Sean Macdougall 57.5 per cent; =2nd Peter Millar & Kay Dyer and Mark Roderick & Mike Close 52.5. Ann and Sean also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

YMCA gymnasts shine at SCI championships

THREE gymnasts from Barry YMCA's female artistic section all climbed to the top of the podium when they competed at the South Central Intermediate Championships.

Erin Gamble competed for the first time at this level in the 8/9 years category and claimed gold on all four pieces and overall.

All three gymnasts then went on to compete at the Welsh Intermediate Championships, where all three gained awards.

Lara gained a fifth place ribbon on floor while Erin gained a fourth place ribbon on floor and placed ninth overall. Alana showed some great work on bars to gain the gold medal and placed fifth overall.

Congratulations to all three gymnasts and well done to coaches Aimee, Charlotte, Leanne, Olivia and Karen.

Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club offers fun gymnastics opportunities for everyone.

It is one of only a few clubs in Wales who have achieved the British Gymnastics Gym Mark accreditation, which means that the club is recognised by British Gymnastics and their partners as a safe, effective and child friendly club.

To find out more about opportunities available please contact 01446 724001.

CG

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday November 6 was the first round of the club pairs championship: first John Beard Tony Disley and Roger Penton, second Linda Pinnock and Dennis Mottram, third Julian Pottage and Robert Charlesworth.

Friday, November 8: first Tony Disley and Kevin Maddox, second Terry Haworth and Robert Charlesworth, third John Henson and Terry Dolan.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, October 24, were Stuart Davies, Colin Lewis,

DN After conceding

THE penultimate awayday of the year for the Blacksmith's golf society took place on Cottrell Park's Mackintosh course.

In the stableford competition, joint third were Roy Whitehouse and Andy Wilkey with John Campbell runner up on 29 points; Philemon Williams was the winner with 32 points and he also took nearest the pin, while Bill Aspinall hit the longest drive.

Southerndown members Campbell and Williams are first and second in the Mike Sollis trophy competition, with only one point separating them with one fixture remaining.

KD



GEM sport

WALES' CALL: BE RUTHLESS AND CLINICAL!

Dragon has to be red in tooth and claw to bring down the Pumas

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

LAST week, this column ended on a fairly optimistic note: "It surely cannot be long before nail-bitingly narrow defeats are turned into triumph over the southern hemisphere big boys – and Saturday at the Millennium Stadium (against South Africa) is a good place for Wales to begin the process of reversing the trend."

Was this cautious confidence misplaced, given last weekend's nine-point 24-15 Welsh defeat – the 25th in 27 meetings between the two sides since they first clashed in 1906?

I would argue not, for given the history, and circumstances as they unfolded during the course of the game, it was always going to be a herculean task: after all, Warren Gatland's young guns were facing a veritable force majeure – physically awesome opponents ranked second only to Rugby World Cup holders New Zealand, and match-hardened in the toughest Rugby Championship of all, back home in the southern hemisphere.

In contrast, the home players, notoriously slow starters, were coming off the back of yet another hit-or-miss start to the season by inconsistent Welsh regions struggling to hold their own in the Pro12, let alone make the step up to European competition.

As Wales' head coach Warren Gatland

frankly admitted, there is a wide gulf in class between the Pro12 and the southern hemisphere's Rugby Championship, which offers a much stronger grounding in physicality and sustained intensity – which has invariably been the deciding factor in the past.

Not that this, of course, can be offered in any way as an excuse for the result – or for the brutally-exposed shortcomings of a team that contained so many of the Lions' winning test squad in Australia this summer.

The final score board did not lie and the men from the high veldt were clearly full value for their win, not least for the three tries to nil ratio that ultimately negated a brave Welsh effort and put the contest out of sight.

Not that this was in any sense a one-sided affair: the home team seemed determined to avoid the kind of early torpor that has so often been their undoing (eg, the dire first half against Ireland in this year's Six Nations that may conceivably have cost them a fourth Grand Slam).

Certainly, Wales made a much better start and almost immediately drew first blood with the first of five successful penalties by the immaculate Leigh Halfpenny, who promptly followed it with another from halfway, after South Africa had hit back with a penalty of their own.

At this early stage, Wales were very much in contention, with centre Jonathan Davies manfully taking on the powerhouse running of the absent Jamie Roberts with two searing line-breaks that caught the defence wrong-footed.

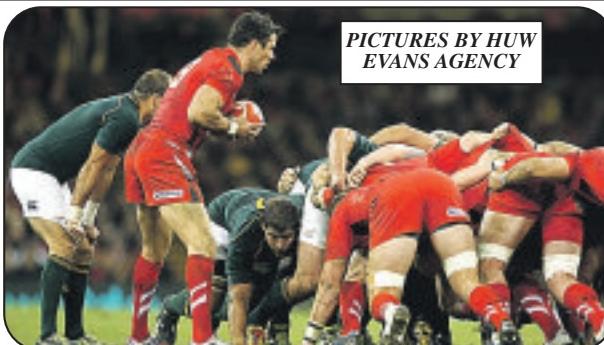
Then came a double blow when both Davies and wing Liam Williams left the field injured and were replaced by exile James Hook (making a welcome return to the international arena) and Osprey Ashley Beck.

The Springboks clinically took advantage of the resulting confusion in the ranks to put the pressure on and as another injured Welsh defender lay prostrate, wing ace Bryan Habana evaded his marker, George North, and set off on an electrifying run that culminated in a converted try by skipper Jean de Villiers.

When this was followed less than five minutes later by a ferocious forward charge that bundled burly hooker Bismarck du Plessis over the line to make the score 6-17, the outlook was ominous indeed for the hard-pressed Welsh defence.

Halfpenny again narrowed the gap with two more penalties – his fourth effort from an acute angle on the touchline – but in between, Wales suffered another, even more serious, hammer blow, when scrum colossus Adam Jones left the field injured.

Having lost three key men in the space of 30 minutes, and having to frantically readjust their defensive line-up and game plan to accommodate the changed personnel, amaz-



PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY

LEFT: The scrum was a contentious issue on Saturday, with Gethin Jenkins and Coenie Oosthuizen both being sin-binned for infringements.

ingly, a relieved Welsh team went into the interval just 12-17 in arrears; but knowing that, unlike their opponents, they had failed to grasp their opportunities – despite having a generous share of possession and territory. That harsh fact was to prove the crucial difference between the two sides.

To their credit, in the second half, with Paul James now at tight head, they again bravely took on the Springbok juggernaut, forcing another penalty at the scrum which Halfpenny slotted over to bring his team within two points of the opposition total, and with both camps sending on replacements, it seemed we were in for yet another cliffhanger – a la the four-point margin between the two in autumn 2010, and just one-point difference in RWC 2011.

It was all to end in something of an anti-climax, however, thanks to the match officials, led by referee Alain Rolland (who was at the centre of the controversial sending off of Wales skipper Sam Warburton in the RWC semi-final).

Some of his decisions at the set-piece during the course of this match had already perplexed no less an authority than legendary Welsh prop, Graham Price, particularly the sin-binning of props Gethin Jenkins and Coenie Oosthuizen, which resulted in non-contested scrums and threatened to reduce yet another important Test match to the level of farce.

With less than 15 minutes to go and with the tension mounting, a converted try by scrum half Fourie du Preez was controversially allowed, despite a South African team mate being offside directly under the nose of the assistant referee running the line.

Strangely, neither the referee nor the Welsh camp called for a video play-back, though in truth, unlike RWC 2011, the incident could not be said to have cost Wales the game.

Critics may claim that the result merely reinforces the gap that still exists between the young Six Nations champions and the big boys from the southern hemisphere, but the reality is that Wales have been steadily closing that gap for five years under Gatland and there is no need to be too downhearted at this



ABOVE: The third South Africa try, scored by Fourie du Preez, which secured the game for the Springboks, was a source of controversy

latest setback.

After all, not too long ago it would have been inconceivable that a Welsh team could come anywhere near nine points of opponents who only recently pushed the Kiwi world champions to the limit before succumbing.

As always, there are lessons to be learned in defeat and this talented Wales team, who can never be faulted for effort, know full well that they have to become more ruthlessly efficient and clinical in their execution.

It can surely be only a matter of time before this message finally clicks into place – and they now have another chance to prove themselves against Argentina, who come to the Millennium Stadium on Saturday on the back of a 31-12 mauling at the hands of England at Twickenham, but sustained by their 26-12 win over Wales last autumn in Cardiff.

Wales can expect another mighty physical test up front from rugged, street-wise Pumas who will have gleefully noted the long list of walking wounded.

It promises to be another nail-biter!

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